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JPRS-SSA-87-082

16 SEPTEMBER 1987

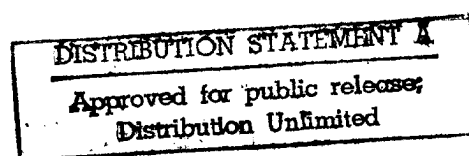


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JPRS Report

Africa (Sub-Sahara)

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16 SEPTEMBER 1987

AFRICA (SUB-SAHARA)

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U.S.-CONCEIVED DEBT PLANS SAID NOT TO WORK FOR AFRICA

London AFRICA ANALYSIS in English 10 Jul 87 p 4

[Article by Jan Toporowski]

[Text]

THE last edition of Africa Analysis published a series of indicative prices for the debt of a dozen African countries. It suggested that some prices have fallen so low, relative to the nominal value of the debt, that it is now theoretically possible for certain countries to start liquidating their debts by buying them back at substantial discounts.

Since then Michael Milken, the American pioneer of junk bonds, has proclaimed that the new market of the future is in 'sovereign junk'. The enterprising investor could get his money back if only one in ten bonds of indebted countries, bought at a nominal 10%, was eventually honoured at par.

Within the banking establishment, Citicorp has repeated its intentions to swap and deal down its problem debt exposures. Martin Feldstein, recently chairman of President Reagan's council of economic advisers and now professor of economics at Harvard, has declared that 'muddling through', debt equity swaps and renewed commitment to the Baker plan, offer 'the most promising way to achieve satisfactory growth and the eventual return of the debtors to financial markets.'

The problem with such optimism is that it is based on an American

view of the Third World consisting of Latin America and the countries on the opposite shore of the Pacific; other developing countries are obscured in the distance. This American-centred view is apparent in the World Bank's latest World Development Report. Its endorsement of export-orientated growth out of debt implicitly repeats the naive question: 'Why can't the South be like Taiwan?'

Even Citicorp's writing down its problem loans to the Third World has more to do with competition in international banking than with finding a solution to the oppression of developing countries by debt. By forcing others to emulate its hairshirt machismo, Citicorp has merely demonstrated that it has a greater capacity to take losses into its balance sheets.

For Africa, this means little. The bulk of its \$175bn debt burden is official debt granted or guaranteed by various governments and the World Bank and IMF. Outside southern Africa, financial markets are thin, providing little scope for exchanging debt for equity instruments.

While development economists in advanced industrialised countries preach to Africa about the benefits of private enterprise, the continent (with the exception of South Africa) lacks the indigenous accumulations of capital that, put into productive use, are the basis of capitalist development. The privatisation of African enterprises has usually meant simply selling them to US, Western European, and even South Korean interests.

Solutions such as the recently announced Africa Project Development Facility may encourage some small businesses. But these are hardly likely to have an impact on Africa's international trade which, for the foreseeable future, will continue to be dominated by foreign capital. Even if it does buy African state enterprises, it will not commit substantial investment to African economic recovery

as long as the continent's terms of trade are in decline.

Last year, Africa's commodity exports decreased in value by \$14bn compared with 1985, while the cost of its manufactured imports rose by 14%. Debt servicing commitments this year are estimated to be \$12bn-\$14bn. Investment has collapsed in most African economies, whose governments are reduced to desperate bargaining with the industrialised countries over what portion of their declining export earnings will go on feeding and clothing Africans, and what portion will go on paying debt.

For Africa therefore, writing off most of its foreign debt is now a necessary condition for economic recovery. Free market solutions, such as debt trading and swaps, are for those countries whose geography places them, to paraphrase the Mexican dictator Porfirio Diaz, 'further from God and nearer to the United States.'

/13046

CSO: 3400/0276

DISTRICT ASSEMBLIES DO NOT MEAN ABOLITION OF CDR'S

Annan Statement

Accra PEOPLE'S DAILY GRAPHIC in English 23 Jul 87 pp 1, 8

[Article by Joe Bradford]

[Text]

MR Justice D. F. Annan, member of the PNDC, has declared that the creation of the district assemblies will not mean the abolition of the CDRs.

He also said the assemblies would not be antagonistic to the CDR concept but rather co-exist and operate alongside it.

Mr Justice Annan gave the assurance when answering questions at a public forum on the district assemblies and the modalities for the district level elections at Dodowa yesterday.

A questioner had asked why the modalities were silent on the role of the CDRs in the district assembly.

Mr Justice Annan noted that the CDRs are organs of the revolution and should exist whilst the people are given the chance to choose their representatives.

He, however, said that any member of the CDR who wishes, could stand for election to the district assemblies though he would not stand on the ticket of the CDR.

On the elections itself, Mr Justice Annan noted that it took the government that long to come out with the programme be-

cause it wanted to put the economy on a sound footing.

He said democracy will make no sense to the people if it does not rest on a sound economy. Democracy, he noted, must mean the institution of programmes and strategies that will make the people live better.

The PNDC member noted that now that the economy has been put on a sound footing, the government is in a position to tackle the first phase of the democratic political arrangement.

The district level elections, he said, is meant to bring people together and encourage them to take up the responsibilities of developing their areas.

He explained however that the creation of the assemblies will not mean the abdication of the PNDC's responsibility to develop the country.

The government, he said, will offer guidance to ensure that district development programmes fall into the national framework.

The acting Secretary for Information, Mr Kwame-na Ahwoi, in his contribution, said the PNDC's call for democracy is not a call for paper democracy.

He said the government is concerned with the democracy of shelter, food and concrete structures that will serve the interest of the people.

He said as the team goes round explaining the programme to the people, new ideas and suggestions are received which will help modify the programme.

He called on all eligible voters to register since the voters' register which will be opened will be used in

all future elections subject to occasional renewals.

Mr Ahwoi therefore called on the CDRs to encourage the people to register.

At the forum were Mrs Selina Taylor, Greater Accra Regional Secretary, Professor E. A. Haizel, member/secretary of the National Commission for Democracy, Mr W. H. Yeboah, Secretary for Local Government and Rural Development.

Iddrisu Comment

Accra PEOPLE'S DAILY GRAPHIC in English 29 Jul 87 pp 1, 4

[Article by Boniface Ablekpe and Asiedu Marfo]

[Text]

ALHAJI Mahama Iddrisu, PNDC member, has stated that the government's commitment to democracy through the electoral system does not mean that the revolutionary process has been abandoned.

Rather, he said, it must be seen as a means of democratising state power and advancing participatory democracy as well as collective decision-making at the grassroot.

He has therefore urged all Ghanaians to collectively take part in ensuring the attainment of these objectives which will not only end with the installation of the district assemblies but will also continue to the ultimate national political structures.

The PNDC member said this when he briefed a cross-section of the people at a public forum held at the Ghana National Cultural Centre in Kumasi on Monday.

The forum was held to discuss the modalities for the district level elections and the establishment of district assemblies.

He noted that for true democracy to be attained, it is necessary to organise all the people whether belonging to the CDRs or not, through democratic

institutions.

Alhaji Iddrisu said the document on the district political authority now referred to as the "Blue Book", sets up district assemblies as the highest political and administrative authorities in the districts.

These assemblies, he said, differ from the councils of old because they are designed to be constituted by representatives of the people who take their mandate from the people of the district and must therefore be responsible to them.

On his part, Mr Kwame Ahwoi, acting Secretary for Information, stated during questions time that the purpose of electing people to serve in the district assemblies instead of using CDRs is to allow as many Ghanaians as possible, to participate in taking decisions that affect them.

This is because even though the membership of the CDRs is opened to all Ghanaians, it is not all of them who participate in CDR activities.

The acting Information Secretary, however, stressed that CDRs still remain the vanguard of the Revolution and that their role would be to monitor and safeguard the interest of

the revolution and the resources of the state.

To those who question the basis on which the elections are being conducted and the national political structures to be evolved, Alhaji Iddrisu, who is also a PNDC member, said the elections are being conducted under the Local Government Act of 1961.

According to him, the National Commission for Democracy (NCD) has been charged to work out the national structures and steps for its attainment as well as the linkages of the district assemblies to the national structure.

A member of the public urged the government to make extensive use of teachers in the political education campaign, especially, in the rural areas.

Mr W. H. Yeboah, Secretary for Local Government and Rural Development, said that teachers, revolutionary cadres and staff of the Social Welfare Mass Education Unit will all be mobilised to educate the public on the modalities.

Mr Joshua Amartey, acting Director of the Information Services Department, announced that 25 cinema vans will soon arrive in the country for the political education fora.

/13046

CSO: 3400/995

CDO TO PROSECUTE THOSE POSING AS MILITIAMEN

Accra PEOPLE'S DAILY GRAPHIC in English 23 Jul 87 p 3

[Article by Kweku Raymond Dadzie]

[Text]

THE Civil Defence Organisation (CDO) will deal ruthlessly with any person found using the name of the organisation to commit crimes.

Dr Sanat Panford, Director of Public Affairs of the CDO who gave this warning at a press conference in Accra yesterday said the move is to check unscrupulous elements from soiling the name of the organisation.

He noted that though the CDO, using its militia wing is engaged in a nation-wide re-orientation process to ensure that probity, self-reliance, togetherness, hardwork and accountability were imbued in every Ghanaian, for "far too long some unscrupulous elements in the society have been posing as militiamen and engaging in anti-social acts in the country."

"Self-appointed task force personnel go about extorting monies from innocent people, and are doing things that will make the honest ones bow down their heads in shame", he said.

They act so irresponsibly, and when they are confronted, they claim to be "militias", he said and explained that it is only the CDO which has governmental authority to train militia. "What these charlatans do is tantamount to subversion", Dr Panford stressed.

The CDO, he said, has decided therefore to help the public identify genuine militiamen and women and distinguish them

from imposters and swindlers.

The Public Affairs Director stressed that henceforth, genuine militiamen who go on authorised operations will always be properly dressed and carry operational passes. The approved uniform for militiamen on operations, he said, is the brown khaki, deliberately cut to a specific style.

In addition to the uniform, militiamen on operational duties would be seen to wear the CDO badge. In emergency situations, any militiaman on duty might wear the "Irish" shirt over the brown khaki trousers, he stated.

The director said under no circumstance and on no account should militiamen on authorised operations be seen to wearing either military uniform or a combination of a military uniform and some trousers.

He said anyone or any group of people seen in any of these dresses are imposters and must be arrested.

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CSO: 3400/995

NORTHERN SECURITY COUNCIL COMMENDED FOR MAINTAINING PEACE

Accra PEOPLE'S DAILY GRAPHIC in English 29 Jul 87 p 1

[Article by Kojo Sam]

[Text]

THE Army Commander, Major-General W. M. Mensa-Wood, has commended the Northern Regional Security Council for its ability in ensuring relative calm in the region.

Addressing the Regional Security Council at Tamale on Monday, the Army Commander said despite the numerous chieftaincy problems which plagued the region in the recent past, the area now enjoys relative calm, thus making it possible for citizens to carry on their duties unharassed.

The Army Commander is on a three-day duty tour of the region.

He called on all the security agencies to co-operate in their activities in order to ensure lasting peace.

Major-General Mensa-Wood who is also a member of the PNDC, pointed out that the Economic Recovery Programme (ERP) which is at its peak requires peace and stability to succeed.

"It is therefore, the social and moral responsibilities of the security agencies and revolutionary organs such as the CDRs, CDOs and the people in general to be more vigilant and defend the modest achievements

made over the years," he stated.

The Army Commander further emphasised that the country needs enough peace to enable the people to go about their activities without fear or intimidation and urged revolutionary organs to intensify their roles in the on-going process.

He commended the Regional Security Council for creating the congenial atmosphere necessary for development.

Major-General Mensa-Wood said he also appreciated the efforts of the council in bringing chieftaincy disputes in the region under control and said this shows that a lot of progress has been made towards solving the major problems that have confronted the region for a long time.

Among those present at the meeting were the Regional Secretary, Mr Huudu Yahaya who is also the chairman of the council, Wing Commander Kelli, Commanding Officer of the Tamale Garrison, Lt.-Col. N. Sowatey, Commanding Officer of the Sixth Battalion of Infantry and Mr Kwasi Nkansah, Commissioner of Police in-charge of the region, all members of the council.

VOLTA LAKE TRANSPORT SERVICE NEARS COMPLETION

Accra GHANAIAN TIMES in English 27 Jul 87 pp 1, 3

[Text]

THE C8.86 billion expansion and improvement of the Volta Lake Transport System (VLTS) is about 90 per cent complete, Mr Kwaku Duah, managing director of the Volta Lake Transport Company (VLTS), announced at Akosombo yesterday.

The project involves the building of a new port on the Black Volta River at Buipe in Northern Region, improvement of Akosombo Port and its facilities and construction of new floating units to increase the carrying capacity of the company.

The Federal Republic of Germany is financing the project with a loan of 100 million deutsche marks, while the Ghana Government is providing C400 million.

"Akosombo Port is now complete" said Mr Duah, adding, "facilities there now include two extended ramps, 2000 cubic metres capacity warehouses, a concrete area for containers, workshop, a fuel depot, generator, modern

cargo handling facilities and telecommunications facilities."

A new port office, market and laying of telecommunications cables which had been added would be ready in October, this year, he said.

Mr Duah said Buipe Port, where the company's lake transport services terminated, would have the same facilities as Akosombo and would be ready by November this year.

"The civil works are almost complete except the approach roads", he said.

On the new floating units Mr Duah said, two 730-tonne dry cargo barges and a pusher tug, the Volta Queen, had been completed and were operating alongside the 'Akosombo Queen', built some 20 years ago.

A third barge to carry diesel between Akosombo and Buipe for Ghana Oil Company (GOIL) might be operational next month whilst a petrol and kerosene barge and an additional pusher tug would be ready next year, he said.

/13046

CSO: 3400/995

AEC PROPOSES RADIATION CHECKS ON IMPORTED FOOD

Accra PEOPLE'S DAILY GRAPHIC in English 22 Jul 87 pp 1, 5

[Article by Vic Odoi]

[Text]

THE Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) has suggested that samples of all food items imported into the country be sent to the Commission to enable it to testify whether or not their radioactive contents are safe for human consumption.

This is because of recent speculation that contaminated food items during the Chernobyl nuclear accident in Europe a year ago have found their way into Africa and other parts of the Third World.

Already, samples of food items imported into the country through government agencies are sent to the Commission for radioactive analysis but not those imported by private companies and individuals.

Speaking in an interview yesterday, the acting Director of the Commission, Mrs Victoria Appiah, said analysis conducted at the Commission's radioactive laboratories and from its monitoring centres have not shown any dangerous radioactive contents.

She said immediately after the Chernobyl accident, the Commission monitored rain water continuously but did not detect any unacceptable levels of radioactivity.

The acting director said the Commission is in the

process of establishing an acceptable level of radioactivity in all food items in the country.

Explaining the rationale behind this, Mrs Appiah noted that there is an element of radioactivity in everything, including the human being, which is not harmful.

However, she said, the level of acceptability differs from one country to the other depending on the consumption rate of food items by a country.

To be able to arrive at the desired level therefore, the Commission will have to work hand-in-hand with

a number of agencies such as the Food Research Institute and the Nutrition Division of the Ministry of Health to determine certain food intakes of the Ghanaian.

Currently, she disclosed, the Commission is in the process of establishing a unit to monitor every single item brought into the country by private importers to ensure that such goods do not endanger the lives of the consumers.

She used the opportunity to implore all private importers to make it obligatory to sample their imports in order to guarantee their safety for consumption.

BRIEFS

PROPAGANDA ON IMF CONDEMNED--Lt.-Col. E.A. Baidoo, Central Regional Secretary, has called on Ghanaians, especially workers to disregard the vile campaign which has been started by enemies of the revolutionary process that the PNDC has mortgaged its right to formulate sound economic policies to International Monetary Fund (IMF) loans. The Regional Secretary who was addressing a durbar of heads of department revolutionary organs and members of the general public at the Swedru Town Hall on Tuesday, described the campaign as hollow, monstrous and calculated to derail the smooth progress of the country towards economic self-sufficiency. He said the PNDC is committed to salvaging the economy from the doldrums into which irresponsible and wanton dissipation of state funds plunged it. Lt.-Col. Baidoo said the PNDC has approached the IMF and other international financial institutions to secure loans to repair the damage which the very people who are spreading the vile propaganda and their lackeys caused to the national economy. [By E.A. Andam] [Excerpt] [Accra PEOPLE'S DAILY GRAPHIC in English 23 Jul 87 pp 1, 8] /13046

DUNKWA GOLDFIELDS COMPANY OUTPUT--The Dunkwa Goldfields Limited has been exceeding its annual production targets since last year, the General Mines Manager, Mr R.E. Denis, said at Pokukrom on Wednesday. He said last year, the company produced 5,025 fine ounces of gold as against its target of 4,900. This year, the company has up to date, produced about 10,000 fine ounces representing 70 per cent of its target for the year. Mr Denis was confident that the company could double its present target to about 24,000 fine ounces next year. The General Mines Manager attributed the steady increases in gold output, to the improved working conditions of the dredging machines. He said the company has instituted a bonus scheme of between five to 20 per cent of basic salary for the workers, anytime they exceed production targets. Mr Denis hinted that the company would soon rehabilitate all the broken down dredgers when it starts utilising a World Bank loan of \$13 million. He said more close circuit television sets would be acquired to strengthen the security network.--GNA. [Text] [Accra PEOPLE'S DAILY GRAPHIC in English 24 Jul 8 p 9] /13046

FLIGHT TO LAS PALMAS--Ghana Airways is to start Accra-Las Palmas flight before the year ends, Squadron Leader J.B. Azariah, Managing Director of Ghana Airways has said. Squadron Leader Azariah said a Bilateral Air Service Agreement (BASSA) to this effect, was signed a month ago with Iberia, the Spanish National Airline and the Spanish Aeronautical Aviation Authority. The Las Palmas flights would be an extension of Ghana Airways West Coast Operations,

Operations, conducted mainly with the Airline's F28 aircraft with capacity of between 72 and 85, and the 125-seater DC 9. [Text] [Accra GHANAIAN TIMES in English 28 Jul 87 p 3] /13046

FREIGHT BY LAKE TRANSPORT--The Volta Lake Transport Company (VLTC) is arranging a joint cargo service with the State Transport Corporation (STC) to facilitate the haulage of goods to the northern sector of the country and Burkina Faso. Mr Kwaku Duah, managing director of the VLTC, told the Ghana News Agency that the STC would lift all cargo consigned to the VLTC for the North of Burkina Faso to Akosombo port. The VLTC would then ferry the goods by lake transport to Buipe in Northern Ghana which is 384 kilometres. The STC would also consign its cargo destined for the north through VLTC, Mr Duah added. "The arrangement will eliminate unnecessary competition between us, and save the STC fuel and wear and tear on their fleet of vehicles, especially tyres. GNA. [Text] [Accra GHANAIAN TIMES in English 29 Jul 87 p 8] /13046

CSO: 3400/995

TRADE LINKS TO BRITAIN FLOURISH

Nairobi KENYA TIMES in English 10 Jul 87 p 10

[Text] BRITAIN and Kenya have enjoyed a close and friendly economic relationship for many years. In 1986 Britain once again proved to be Kenya's biggest and most important export market taking approximately 25 per cent of its products worth over shs 4,095 million.

This trade has provided a good return for Kenya's cash crops and enabled the purchase of a substantial part of the capital equipment and industrial material essential to the country's economic development. Kenya was Britain's third largest market in sub-Saharan Africa importing a wide variety of products valued at over shs 4,250 million, ranging from tractors to turbines and medicines to computers. Our trade in goods is therefore well balanced.

In 1986 tea took pride of place as Kenya's single most important export to Britain at over shs 2,275 million. Kenya exported more tea to Britain than any other nation, leading India and Malawi by a wide margin. Needless to say Britons maintain their position as the greatest tea drinkers in the world.

In spite of the fall in prices, coffee worth over shs 825 million went to Britain last year. Vegetables and fruit (in ever increasing quantities), meat, leather, leather goods and textiles were also among Kenya's valuable exports. It is likely that the strawberries seen on Marks and Spencer's

shelves in winter and the tins of pineapple in Sainsbury's all the year round will have come from Kenya — attesting to their superb quality.

Over many years British businessmen have been beating a path to Kenya's door, and in 1986 they came in record numbers. Trade Missions from Birmingham and South Wales reported enthusiastically not only on the business their members had won but also on the prospects of more. Agents were appointed and contracts made.

Most importantly, many arrangements were made to manufacture goods locally — with all this implies for increasing inward investment, reducing imports and transferring technology and expertise to Kenya.

The Conference Centre, with its superb facilities and setting, proved to be a positive magnet for UK firms. More British firms attended the Africa Telecom Exhibition, the Africa Health Exhibition and the Africa Water Exhibition than any other overseas exhibitor. Many firms have already said they are keen to return.

No article on trade between Britain and Kenya would be complete without mention of the magnificent Nairobi International Show. Year after year British firms return in ever increasing numbers. Their products are displayed on the British stand, a handsome structure

occupying a prime site in the showground. Its success is such that Britain has recently signed a further five year lease with the Agricultural Society of Kenya. We look forward to many more years of friendly co-operation with ASK.

At the 1986 Show, Lord Belstead, Britain's Minister of State for Agriculture escorted His Excellency President Daniel arap Moi around the British stand, introducing him to many representatives of the British firms exhibiting.

Later, Lord Belstead visited several of Kenya's agricultural areas and commented on the spectacular achievement recorded in tea, sugar and coffee areas in which Kenya-based commercial companies have played an important role.

Over 150 British companies, with investments worth about shs 25 billion have set up factories and offices in Kenya. They participate daily in almost every aspect of the nation's commercial life — manufacturing, banking, insurance, transport and tourism to name a few.

Many are run in partnership with Kenyans or have substantial Kenyan shareholding, and this trend is increasing. They are indeed an eloquent reminder of the close, friendly, and traditional trading ties that exist between Kenya and Britain.

EEC APPROVES DEVELOPMENT AID PACKAGE

Nairobi DAILY NATION in English 11 Jul 87 p 4

[Article by Doug Charaggu]

[Excerpt]

The Commission of the European Communities in Nairobi has approved a Sh1,080 million aid package for two development programmes in Kenya.

One of them, the Northern Transport Programme, will receive Sh700 million, of which Sh340 million is a grant.

The other amount, Sh360 million, is a special loan with an interest rate of 1 per cent, to be repaid over 40 years. It has a 10-year grace period.

The acting Delegate to the Commission Mr J. V. H. Thompson told the *Nation* yesterday that the programme would involve the reconstruction of three sections of roads in the northern corridor.

The sections are Kabete-Limuru, Eldoret-Turbo and Webuye-Malaba.

Mr Thompson said the financing agreement would soon be

signed by the delegation and the Kenya Government.

He said the rehabilitation was expected to reduce the cost of transport for imports, exports and domestic produce.

The EEC will also give a Sh380 million grant for four agricultural research stations.

The support is in form of equipment, buildings, field research and establishment of links between Kenyan and EEC research activities.

The four stations are Range Management Research in Kiboko, Marsabit's Arid Lands Research, Katumani Soil and Water Management, and the National Agricultural Laboratories.

The agricultural support programme is aimed at improving productivity in both agriculture and livestock, while at the same time conserving soil and water resources.

/13046

CSO: 3400/0259

SURVEY OF FRENCH CULTURAL, TECHNICAL COOPERATION

Nairobi KENYA TIMES in English 14 Jul 87 p 10

[Text]

THIS co-operation was instituted right after the independence of Kenya. Increasing exchanges between the two countries decided both governments to sign a mutual agreement in 1972.

Since then, this co-operation has been running smoothly, strengthening year after year the Franco-Kenyan friendship, for a common better knowledge of each culture.

Apart from this first aim, the other target is to meet as efficiently as possible the needs of Kenya in terms of sustainable development, training and technology transfers.

The co-operation between France and Kenya, in this country, is based on the principle of relating the various requests of Kenya institutions and applying them in accordance with Kenyan regulations and the memorandum of mutual agreement.

IN THE FIELD OF CULTURAL EXCHANGES, THE FOLLOWING POINTS SHOULD BE BROUGHT INTO FOCUS:

The FRENCH CULTURAL CENTRE of the French Embassy is now very well-known in Nairobi throughout the year. It has been pursuing its efforts to promote dialogue between Kenyan and French culture and as well as with French-speaking Africa and the rest of the world.

The centre is widely opened to Kenyan artists whose activities area always welcome. For instance, during the last eighteen months, among the 72 shows that were performed, 38 were Kenyan producing, and among the 50 exhibitions that were performed, 18 were presented by Kenyan artists.

More particularly in the field of theatre a very successful experience was made, consisting in a workshop which brought together a Kenyan drama troupe and a French producer.

This resulted in the producing of two plays in English and in French in February 1 '86. This successful experience was repeated in '87 with the same theatrical results.

The centre's French library, containing 17,000 books lends out around 16,000 units per year; records, cassettes and video tapes are also available. Kenyan nationals represents 45 per cent of the borrowers. The centre has widened the range of its capabilities by proposing micro-computering activities within its Micro-computer Club.

The FRENCH FILM LIBRARY provides French movies (English version or subtitled) to schools and other institutions, 560 units were loaned in '86.

The CREDU (Regional Centre for Research Exchanges and Documentation) has further developed its efforts to enhance links between universities in France, Kenya and East Africa.

The ALLIANCE FRANCAISE in Nairobi and Mombasa, registered last year more than 2,500 members. Modern teaching methods enable those who want to learn French to register easily for short-term modules (3 weeks) which can be taken successively or simultaneously, according to everybody's availability and wishes.

The BAL (Pedagogical and French Language Resource Bureau) co-ordinates French Embassy efforts in the field of linguistics which are mainly concerned with:

IMPROVING INITIAL AND ON-THE-JOB TRAINING FOR KENYAN FRENCH TEACHERS with Kenyatta University, Siriba College, Inspectorate of Schools — Ministry of Education, especially in terms of organising local seminars, and of books grants, scholarships for training in France or in neighbouring French-speaking countries, i.e; the 18 new graduate teachers for the year '87 will receive a scholarship next December for one-month training in Bujumbura.

COLLABORATING WITH KIE in order to elaborate the French curriculum for secondary schools (8-4-4).

ACTING AS A RESOURCE CENTRE for secondary schools, universities and other institutions for educational material and pedagogical consultancy.

PARTICIPATING together with the Ministry of Education to various national events, such as a French essay competition, a drama festival in French during which are awarded many prizes including four tours in France. These manifestations are now very popular in Kenyan schools.

Therewith BAL services, various Kenyan institutions teaching French and or including French into their curriculum are benefitting from French assistance (in terms of scholarships, payment of teachers, grants of educational

material) such as KIA, KIMC, DRSRS (ex KREMU) and Utalii College.

Besides, it must be noted that the FRENCH SCHOOL of NAIROBI, widely opened to all nationalities is registering more and more Kenyan citizens: about 60 of them are following now a primary and secondary curriculum in French.

IN THE FIELD OF TECHNICAL AND SCIENTIFIC CO-OPERATION, French assistance is devoted to rural development and technology transfers. The most important areas are the following:

1 / CO-OPERATION WITH THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT.

— Assistance to Rural Micro-Projects Division for implementing EFD-funded projects (groups of 20 projects per year spread all over the country), consisting in a three-experts team with appropriate means (cars, working funds).

Malka Garfassa irrigation scheme in Isiolo district, near Merti, entirely funded by France, whose completion is scheduled for '88, has produced three maize crops with impressive yields on 400 acres gravity irrigated land.

— assistance to DRSRS (ex KREMU). Remote Sensing is using aerial photographs and satellite imagery for general surveys including cartography, land use, vegetation and rangeland mapping, maize and wheat forecast, urban development, human settlement, desertification survey.

Various applications utilising extensively French SPOT assisted by a French team of three experts.

In addition, training sessions are conducted together with the RCSSMRS for the benefit of scientists from Kenya and other East African countries as part of technology transfer in the field of remote sensing.

— assistance to CBS in terms of training, equipment (computers), improving capabilities of statistic data computerised treatment. A team of two French experts is working within CBS.

2/CO-OPERATION WITH THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION:

Exchanges of TV and radio programmes, organisation of a regional seminar, scholarships for training in journalism.

3/CO-OPERATION WITH THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT:

Assistance to KIA in sponsoring seminars and student exchanges

4/CO-OPERATION WITH THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION:

Assistance to Diplomacy Training Programme.

5/MISCELLANEOUS OPERATIONS:

Training of 30 students in aeronautic and allied professions.

/13046

CSO: 3400/0259

RELATIONS WITH REPUBLIC OF KOREA DISCUSSED

Monrovia NEW LIBERIAN in English 13 Jul 87 p 5

[Article by Morris A. Gardea]

[Excerpts]

Since Liberia opened its door to the outside world, with the enunciation of the Open Door Policy, many foreign investors and foreign businessmen have accepted the offer to invest in Liberia. Lebanese, Americans, Germans, and Indians have all chipped in, along with citizens from neighbouring African countries such as Guinea, Nigeria, Ghana and Sierra Leone have also been trading here, in recent times, an influential new group has entered the Liberian international business scene--the Koreans.

Following the visit of President Samuel K. Doe to the Republic of Korea, bilateral co-operation between both countries expanded into additional fields including agriculture, commerce, construction, transportation, etc.

These developments followed the establishment of diplomatic relations between Liberia and Korea in 1964 and the exchange of diplomatic missions in 1973.

Besides Deewoo Corporation, one of Korea's major and distinguished multinational corporations currently constructing the Monrovia-Freetown Highway, many Korean businessmen are making valuable contribution to the Liberian economy in the areas of agriculture, shipping, fishery, textiles, transportation, cinematography, etc.

Statistics taken recently show that the Koreans are becoming a strong competitor for the Lebanese in the commercial sector of the economy.

Traveling on Camp Johnson Road, Curley Street and Waterside which are dominated by Lebanese and Indian

traders, one can see new textile stores and other business establishments managed by Koreans.

One significant feature of Korean businesses in Liberia, is the low prices of their commodities; which any low-income earner can afford.

In the transport sector, cars like Kia-master, Deewoo, and Hyundi (Poney) are imported to Liberia and are used by government agencies, private individuals as well as commercial purposes.

Presently, there is a fast growing Korean Community in Liberia, comprising of doctors, engineers, farmers, technicians and businessmen who are engaged in various fields of endeavour in the country.

The Liberian-Korean Friendship Association, a non-profit organization aimed at fostering socio-economic and cultural ties between both nations, welcomes the Koreans as our partners in economic progress.

Given the industrial stature of Korea, the Association fervently believes that the presence and participation of Koreans in the Liberian economy could help to inspire economic growth, basically in the agricultural and commercial sectors.

As the Government of Liberia strives to improve the national economy, we welcome any progressive partner, who will not undermine, but contribute meaningfully to the growth and development of our national economy.

/13046
CSO: 3400/0205

WIDESPREAD FRAUD ALLEGED IN CHIEFTANCY ELECTIONS

Election 'Irregularities' in Bong County

Monrovia DAILY OBSERVER in English 9 Jul 87 pp 1, 6

[Article by Joe Mulbah]

[Text]

As the counting of ballots for the General Chieftaincy Elections draws to a close, three top officials of Bong County and the Chairman of the Elections Commission (ECOM), Mr. Isaac M. Randolph, have been accused of election "irregularities" in Bong County.

A fivecount complaint contained in a letter addressed to President Doe on July 5, 1987 and signed by five candidates from Bong County, who contested the positions of paramount and clan chiefs, named Representative Ellen Korkoyah, Superintendent Venecious K. Vorkpor, and Christopher Blyden Rennie, NDPL Representative, as individuals they claimed connived with Chairman Randolph to commit the "irregularities."

The candidates alleged that being founding members of the NDPL, who struggled and voted President Doe into office as President during the 1985 General Elections, they have been "maltreated, cheated, belittled, and frustrated by the manner in which Mr. Randolph has handled the counting of the ballots in Bong County."

They further complained to President Doe that prior to the arrival of Chairman Randolph in Gbarnga, Representative Korkoyah left Monrovia for Bong County and upon arrival in Gbartala, "where she removed

chiefs from office," she (Korkoyah) told the public that she had come from Monrovia to inform the citizens that "having consulted ECOM officials," she was pleased to say that only candidates of her choice would be elected after the counting of the ballots.

The candidates also accused Representative Korkoyah of personally influencing the counting of the ballots.

When contacted by telephone last night to comment on the accusation, Chairman Randolph said he was aware of the complaint but added that "I don't want to comment until the results are announced." Efforts to get the side of Superintendent Vorkpor and Representative Korkoyah proved futile.

As for NDPL's Representative Rennie, the candidates alleged that immediately upon his appointment, he (Rennie) moved into the various chiefdoms and began to "solicit funds from us so that he could enter our names on his list so that we could become successful at the elections regardless of votes to be cast."

The complainants revealed in their letter to the President that during the tour of Mr. Rennie to the county, they refused to offer bribe to him.

In the fourth count, the candidates alleged that on the second day of the counting of the ballots, Representative Korkoyah, who was identifying her candidates for consideration, left insulted when one Mr. Samuel Kollie, who is the son of one of the candidates, noted that it was bad for a legislator to use her office to influence the counting of the ballots.

They disclosed that upon this, Representative Korkoyah immediately ordered Brigadier General William D. Miner, Aide-Camp to the President assigned to Bong County, to jail Mr. Kollie, which they said he did after disrobing him in public.

Complaining against Superintendent Vorkpor, the candidates informed President Doe that the Superintendent asked them for money and goats. The complainants directly quoted Superintendent Vorkpor as saying: "The entire election is squarely and exclusively under my control, so I will support those

aspirants who will comply with me."

The candidates said they complied with the request of the Superintendent, but thereafter, "woefully failed to defend our rights but rather disappointed us, all of which we are ready to prove."

In conclusion, the candidates noted that the present political situation in Bong County is such that if he (President Doe) does not come to their rescue, his reconciliation policy could be hindered in the county.

The letter was signed by David Bedell, candidate for paramount chief, Jorquelle Chieftdom; Joseph Doe Smith, candidate for paramount chief, Suacoco Chieftdom; and Isaac Eastman, candidate for clan chief, Zeansue clan.

Others who signed the letter of complaint were Alfred Lansanah, candidate for clan chief, Yonsewoun Clan; and Ernest Bordam, candidate for paramount chief, Fuamah Chieftdom.

Reported Election Irregularities in Nimba County

Monrovia DAILY OBSERVER in English 8 Jul 87 pp 1, 3

[Article by C.Y. Kwanue]

[Text]

A recent wave of alleged election irregularities during the conduct of the just-ended chieftaincy elections, has resulted in the jailing of a Justice of the Peace for five years and the fining of an evangelist in Nimba County.

Seven other persons also implicated in the alleged election fraud were detained but have been ordered released based on the magnitude of their involvement in the act.

The Justice of the Peace was identified as Joseph Tomah of Butuo in Zoe-Geh District, and the evangelist named Sampson Kpalewon of the Crusade Church (Inland).

A report from the county said those released following investigation by Elections Commission officials in the county, headed by Commissioner Harry Nayou, were identified as Leona D. Saye,

a school teacher and election sheriff; Peter Suah, Wesley Quoi, Amos Dao, Cooper Paye, Patrick Gbeadeh and Johnson Gborkie.

The report quoted the ECOM local Magistrate for Nimba County, Mr. Julius Flum Venn, as saying that Mr. Saye was detained for allegedly entrusting the ballot boxes assigned to him to the hands of his third grade students.

It was also learnt that Amos Dao, Cooper Paye and Patrick Gbeadeh were detained for allegedly impersonating, while Johnson Gborkie was jailed for alleged campaigning while voters

were queueing to cast their ballots.

Following investigation, the report said Peter Suah and Wesley Quoi were fined \$25 each, while Amos Dao, Cooper Paye and Patrick Gbeadeh were set free without paying any fine "owing to the nature of their crimes." Mr. Gborkie was set free without paying a fine on humanitarian ground, the report stated.

Justice of the Peace Joseph Tomah, who served as Sheriff during the exercise, was arrested after his ballot box was discovered slightly burst on the side with some ballot papers allegedly stuffed into it.

The report further said that it was on the basis of the findings of the investigation that Mr. Tomah was sentenced to five years imprisonment.

Evangelist Sampson Kpalewon, who also served as Sheriff during the election, was charged with tampering with the ballot box. He is now in detention until he can pay a fine of \$300 imposed on him by ECOM.

As a result of the alleged act, the report said the ballot box assigned in Zahn-Lessonnon Constituency in Saclepea Mah-County District, where the accused supervised, has been disqualified. The report alleged that ballot papers were discovered placed in the ballot box which was never locked during the casting of ballots.

At the same time, another accused, Isobe Blackie, is being detained until he can pay a fine of \$25 imposed on him for alleged election fraud.

Efforts to contact ECOM Chairman yesterday proved futile as this paper was told that he was not in office.

Commissioner Harry Nayou, who is heading the team to Nimba County, could not also be reached for comment as this paper was told that Dr. Nayou was still in Nimba continuing the counting of ballots.

Apparently, the actions against the accused were based on Section 2.24 of the New Elections Law, which states: "A magistrate of elections shall have power and functions within his area of jurisdiction to hear and determine objections of Voters registration claims and to the continuation of disqualified Voters on the registration rolls, and upon a proper showing, to order the reinstatement upon the registration rolls of names of qualified Voters struck off by mistakes.

"Magistrates of Elections shall have power and jurisdiction in the first instance to hear and determine all election offense in which the penalty provided is not more than five hundred (\$500.00) dollars. In all other offenses, the Commission shall have original administrative jurisdiction subject only to judicial review by the Supreme Court of Liberia."

Election Protest Filed

Monrovia DAILY OBSERVER in English 3 Jul 87 p 3

[Article by Joe Mulbah]

[Text]

A candidate for Paramount Chief in Morweh District, Number 5B, Rivercess County, Mr. William T. Dennis, has filed a protest against Elections Commission Magistrate, Mr. Joseph Nelson, for what he (Dennis) termed, "frauding the election."

In a three-count complaint filed on July 2, 1989 to Commissioner Philip O. Lawrence of the Elections Commission (ECOM), copy of the letter which reached us, candidate Dennis alleged that while the election was on a Mr. Millar, one of the candidates, used the Sheriff as his messenger to carry the amount of \$60.00 to Mr. Nelson.

Mr. Dennis further alleged that the amount in question was sent to Mr. Nelson by one Cecelia, one

of the wives of the Sheriff, which he said was against the Elections law.

The complainant also alleged that one of his campaign leaders, Mr. Borbor Sayweh, was detained by Mr. Tarr for two and half hours, because he raised the candidate's symbol.

In conclusion, Mr. Dennis informed Commissioner Lawrence that the ballot boxes remained in Morweh District for two days after the election, which he said was against the rules.

Mr. Dennis also informed ECOM that Magistrate Nelson was supporting one of the candidates in the election.

Efforts to contact Magistrate Nelson or Commissioner Lawrence yesterday proved futile as we were informed by ECOM that all of the Commissioners and Magistrates were busy counting ballots in the various coupties.

/13046

CSO: 3400/0210

POSSIBLE RIFT IN MOJA LEADERSHIP

Monrovia DAILY STAR in English 10 Jul 87 pp 1, 7

[Text] What appears to be a conflict has begun to brew within the political camp of the Movement For Justice In Africa (MOJA) after it was learnt in Monrovia recently that the movement had issued a press release criticizing the Liberian government for requesting Americans to come to Liberia to help with

economic recovery.

The release, reportedly mailed to the MIRROR newspaper from

Hague, The Netherlands,

said "it was shocking to learn that the sovereignty of Liberia had been surrendered to the United States by calling in 17 national economic managers imposed by the United States Government on the Republic of Liberia."

The MOJA press release also denounced what it described as the "managerial odyssey in the strongest possible terms" and called on the people of the United

States to demand of their government the immediate withdrawal of the colonial agents for Liberia.

However, a well-informed source from the United States told the DAILY STAR late Wednesday night in a telephone interview that co-founders of MOJA, Drs. Togba Nah Tipoteh and Henry Boima Fahnbulleh, Jr., former Minister of Planning and Foreign Affairs respectively in the erstwhile People's Redemption Council government, differ greatly on the press

release said to have been signed by Dr. Tipoteh.

The source hinted that Dr. Fahnbulleh is claiming that "Dr. Tipoteh has no right to issue a press release on behalf of MOJA since members of the executive committee did not meet to discuss the issues involved."

"As a result of the publication of the press release in Monrovia, all members of the executive committee of MOJA in Liberia and other foreign parts have been abused and termed as small children," the source quoted Dr. Fahnbulleh as saying.

The source who spoke sadly during the telephone interview, also revealed that Dr. Fahnbulleh has threatened

to leave the movement (MOJA) if Dr. Tipoteh does not publicly retract his press release and transform it into his own opinions.

Asked why Dr. Fahnbulleh himself could not write or call the newspapers in Monrovia to react to the press release, our source said, "Dr. Fahnbulleh has been trying to get in contact with the LIBERIAN OBSERVER and DAILY STAR or ELWA but all his efforts had failed and had instructed me to do so if I am lucky to contact any newspaper in Monrovia."

Concerning our source's political association in Liberia or in the United States of America, he stated,

"I am a class friend of Dr. Fahnbulleh and I'm not a member of any political party at the moment since the banning of my party, (the Liberian People's Party-LPP).

Recently, this paper reliably learned that a student who travelled to Ghana to seek educational advancement was accused by his fellow Liberians who are also said to be from the MOJA camp.

/13046
CSO: 3400/0207

STUDENT RIOTS SHUT DOWN CUTTINGTON UNIVERSITY

Violence Sparked by Electric Failure

Monrovia DAILY OBSERVER in English 15 Jul 87 pp 1, 6

[Text]

More than 1,000 students were evicted from Cuttington University College campus in Suacoco, Bong County, yesterday after a night of rioting, vandalism and looting over the lack of electricity to study their lessons for first semester examinations the following day.

Three students and one administrator were reportedly injured, buildings were damaged, the library was looted and the bookstore was vandalized. An eyewitness told the Daily Observer, "I saw them carrying away books and other things."

Students who were injured reportedly received their injuries from security forces who came on the campus when ordered to do so to bring calm and order on the campus. Soldiers and units of the riot squad of the police force entered and began banging on doors. Some students hid in the toilets, while others jumped through windows since they were not parties to the disturbance and knew nothing of what was going on.

The disturbance which began at about 10:30 p.m. on Monday night was reportedly due to the breakdown in the college's electric generator which made it rather difficult for the students to study for their exams. The students, who received no official notice of the electric current situation, quietly sought alternative means to study, one of which was going to nearby Phebe Hospital. Unfortunately, some students began to engage in continuous noise-making causing

disruption for those who were studying.

Leaving Phebe Hospital, the students, more than 250 in number, marched on the main campus where they began chanting the slogan, "We tire with this bull-shit. No current, no school. No current, no exam."

On the main campus the students began to ring the bell to cite other students and the administration to address the problem but unfortunately no administrator showed up.

The students then marched up to Ferdun Hall where the 14 U.S. Fulbright visiting professors were being entertained by the administration. The students became angry when they saw that there was current at the guest house provided by a small generator borrowed from Phebe. The students maintained that inas-much the administration could afford to rent a generator for entertainment, they could at least rent one just for use in the library or one of the classrooms.

The students also noted that instead of the administration informing them about the electricity situation, they chose to put up notice for the revoking of the registration of students who were indebted to the college to the tune of 50 cents and \$1.00.

At Ferdun Hall the students ordered that the administrators come out and listen to their request, but unfortunately no administrator was willing to come out. The students then resorted to violent actions by pulling out the generator, throwing stones and breaking doors and window glasses, and overturning college vehicles. The students managed to break into the guest house where they took drinks and food. Attempts by some faculty members to calm the students proved futile. One student was heard saying, "Though we recognize the presence of foreign guests, yet we want to get our message across".

From the guest house the students marched down to the main campus where they looted the homes of several administrators and faculty members. Those affected were the interim president, Rev. Fr. Samuel Y. Reed, the acting comptroller, Mr. Ralph Cummings, the registrar, Mr. Thomas Gaie, and the Dean of Student Services, Mrs. Louise Asanji. The students later moved to the bookstore where they ransacked the building, broke the safe, took away many books and left other books and papers scattered around. They broke into the library and took away few books, but the library was relatively left intact.

One administration source said at first the riot police, which was called in shortly after the rioting began, around 10:30 p.m., were unable to contain the situation.

They therefore sent to Gbarnga for reinforcement. The result was a squad of about 20 armed soldiers, who forcibly entered the girls' dormitory and chased many outside. Some escaped by jumping through the windows. One student, Albertha Garnette, said she was held at gun-point. This resulted in more girls jumping through the windows for fear of their lives. But no shooting was reported.

Up until yesterday the campus was still heavily guarded by security officers. CID officials who arrived on the scene yesterday were jeered by a mammoth crowd which was waiting to see the president who was practically missing in action during the riot.

Assistant CID director Jacob S. Nimely explained to the students that they were sent by the central government to investigate the matter and to do that they needed the students' view. But the students flatly declined to speak and requested the presence of the interim president.

The interim president who arrived in the chapel under tight security escort, at about 12:05 yesterday, announced that the college would be closed indefinitely until the Board of Trustees can come up with suggestions.

The students were ordered to leave the college at 1 p.m. Students were seen hurriedly packing their belongings, in order to meet the short notice.

But administration and students at Cuttington University College differ as to the real causes

of the student riot which hit the institution Monday night, leading to the most serious physical damage ever in the history of Cuttington.

Administration sources have intimated to this newspaper that the riot had little to do with the 21-hour loss of electricity on campus. "There have been times when Cuttington has been out of power for three days or more", one official told this paper yesterday.

But some students told this newspaper that the difference is that the loss of electricity came on the heels of first semester examinations. They contended that the administration never really communicated the problem to the students. The administration said that it circulated a letter around the campus explaining the situation and promising that power would be restored by Tuesday (yesterday).

Administration sources say that there were definitely other motives that led to the riot, in which, they insisted, less than half of the student body was involved.

Cuttington University College was last closed in 1983 following a strike action by students who were demanding proper dormitory conditions, food and electricity.

Meanwhile, a joint delegation from the CUC Board of Trustees and Alumni Association drove to Cuttington yesterday in order to assess the situation and make an on-the-spot investigation in order to cooperate with the authorities to bring the situation back to normal.

Long-Standing Tensions Analyzed

Monrovia DAILY OBSERVER 16 Jul 87 p 4

[Text]

The administration of Cuttington University College were visibly shocked at the student disturbances that rocked the campus Monday night, resulting in untold damage to property. But perhaps the even more important damage was to the university's morale and prestige, which the Board of Trustees, Alumni Association as well as the administration had been striving desperately to rehabilitate since the institutional crisis that led to the removal last January of Dr. Stephen Yekeson as president.

A source close to the interim president, Fr. Samuel Y. Reed, said it was his candid opinion that the disturbances had little or nothing to do with the power outage which, in any case, lasted for only 21 hours to the time of the riot. And most of those 21 hours were during the daylight.

The source quoted Fr. Reed as indicating that there were three types of students at Cuttington: 1) those on academic probation who knew that come the end of this semester they might be suspended for between one semester to three years; 2) those who owe tuition arrears; and 3) those who had neither academic nor financial problems at the school.

One faculty member was asked whether it was possible that the students in the first two groups connived to cause the disturbances. He replied, "I wouldn't rule that out."

Just a few days ago the college administration issued a circular stating that anyone who owed tuition arrears would not be allowed to take his first semester exams. The students made no formal complaint about this regulation; nor did the administration receive any notification whatsoever concerning the students' reaction to the power outage.

Our source said that customarily, before students ever resort to joint action on any issue they first make formal representation to

the administration, either through a delegation of representatives, or in writing or both. But in the case of last Monday night's violent action, no such representation was made.

Other Cuttington watchers say that trouble had been brewing at the college even before the removal of Dr. Yekeson, over a number of issues, including food, water, electricity and a hike in the tuition; and that even since then tension on campus had been high.

During the recent symposium on the institutional crisis at Cuttington, organized by the CUC Alumni Association, many problems were forcefully articulated, including those aired frankly by two students. One of them pointed to the problem of compulsory church services as one of the policies of the current administration which many students objected to. This hardly endeared the students, many of whom are Catholics, Pentecostals, Moslems or free thinkers, to the administration. There were also problems with dormitory schedules, and one student told the symposium that the students resented the policy requiring female students to be in their dorms by 12 midnight. "After all they are college women", the student said. But it was pointed out that many of the students entering Cuttington today are as young as 16 and 17 years old and the college was seeking to protect them by making this stipulation.

So blunt were these student spokesmen that they even criticized the behavior of some of their fellow students and chided the widespread apathy among the student body when it came to certain major issues confronting them.

Several speakers during the symposium blamed the Board of Trustees for most of Cuttington's problems, because for too long it had failed to properly supervise the operations of the school and insist on strict and regular accountability. The recruitment of students, faculty and staff had gone haywire and mismanagement had reached astronomical proportions in terms of financial

and morale costs before the board awoke to the situation, albeit in panic. By that time, said one alumnus, it was almost too late, and Cuttington was on the brink of collapse. Monday's riot surely underscores that fact.

Both keynote speakers at the symposium, Dr. Walter Gwenigale who opened it and Counsellor G. Varney Sherman who closed it, called for radical reforms in the structure of the board; and Counsellor Sherman called for the election of the chairman of the board, rather than restrict it to the bishop of the Episcopal Church. Whatever the case, there was a definite consensus that the Board of Trustees was very much part of the problem at Cuttington.

Several faculty members have indicated that there may have been other factors on campus and off campus, other than students, which may have contributed in one way or another to the Monday's riot. But the administration is convinced that it had little, if

anything, to do with electricity, even considering that the blackout came on the eve of examinations.

However, one observer commented that the power outage may have been just 'the straw that broke the camel's back'.

The only thing that gave what one observer called "a sinister twist" to the whole episode Monday night, was the fact that many of the student demonstrators were seen wearing masks over their heads and faces, to disguise themselves. This had never happened before in the life of Cuttington — or any educational institution in Liberia, for that matter. It raised many questions. Among them, was the riot planned? How long in advance? Who were the people really behind it? Who were wearing the masks? Were all of them students, or were some of them just trouble makers brought in from the outside? If so, by whom? Why, why the masks?

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CSO: 3400/0208

ROBERTS AIRPORT IN FINANCIAL DIFFICULTY

Monrovia DAILY OBSERVER in English 14 July 87 p 3

[Article by S. Togba Slewion]

[Text]

The Acting General Manager of the Roberts International Airport (RIA), Mr. John Collins, has disclosed that the airport is presently facing "serious financial crisis."

Mr. Collins said that if the Government and foreign donors do not come to the aid of RIA, "the airport might collapse."

He said most of the important pieces of equipment at the RIA are deteriorating. "The lack of funds had made it difficult to purchase new equipment", he added. "How can we run an international airport without enough subsidy from government"? he asked.

Mr. Collins said the only subsidy RIA receives from the Government is in the form of money collected as airport tax, adding, "this is a small amount of subsidy any government can contribute towards the running cost of an international airport", such as the Roberts International Airport.

When questioned whether the coming of the Ethiopian and Air

Afrique airlines has added to the airport's revenue generating capacity, Mr. Collins said: "Not much difference" as compared to the days of Pan Am Airlines. "However, we are glad that both airlines are using our facilities" he noted.

On the question of allowing foreign expatriates to run the airport as was done previously, Mr. Collins said RIA's problem is not management but finance, noting, "we will prove to the public that Liberians can efficiently run the airport, despite the serious financial problem we are now facing."

He said the airport management is presently negotiating with other airlines and foreign countries to assist in reviving the economy of the airport.

Speaking on the delay of salaries to RIA employees, Acting Manager Collins said this is due to the delay in the payment of fees owed the airport by some airlines using the airport facilities.

However, he expressed appreciation to the RIA employees for their dedication to work despite the tight economic squeeze at the airport.

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LIBERIA

BRIEFS

INVESTMENT INCENTIVES SUSPENDED--The Cabinet Committee on Investment Incentives has suspended the issuance of all further investment incentives by Government for the duration of the committee's work. Announcing this Tuesday in a meeting held between the Committee and the employees and staff of the National Investment Commission, the Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Emmanuel L. Shaw II, Minister of Commerce, Industry & Transportation said Government, through the President and Cabinet, attaches the highest importance to the early revitalization of the Liberian economy and, as such, it was necessary to obtain the maximum cooperation and support of all of them to assist in the work of the Cabinet Committees which are spearheading Government's Economic Recovery efforts. According to Commerce Ministry Release, Minister Shaw said that it would not be compatible with the work of the Committee if new investment incentives were to be granted during this period when existing contracts were being reviewed. Meanwhile, the Investment Incentive Committee, consisting of Deputy Minister of State for Economic Affairs, Ms. Veronica Deagor, and Deputy Minister of Finance for Revenues, Johnny W. Gaye, is continuing to meet daily at the National Investment Commission in an effort to carry out the mandate of the Cabinet, the release concluded. [Text] [Monrovia NEW LIBERIAN in English 1 Jul 87 p 8] /13046

CSO: 3400/0205

GWF PLAN FOR COMMON FRONT PROPOSED, REJECTED

Front Proposed for Unions

Port Louis LE NOUVEAU MILITANT in French 3 May 87 p 8

/Text/ The General Workers Federation (GWF) has formally proposed the establishment of a common front bringing together all trade union confederations in the country.

"The time has come for trade union leaders to show a new movement toward unity and thereby make people understand that trade unionism still has something to say in Mauritius," Gaetan Pillay, president of the GWF, said at a press conference Wednesday. He warned workers against false promises of political parties as elections approach.

The warning is in a sense the GWF's message for Labor Day. "As the elections draw near, we hear all kinds of promises. Some will try to use the workers to obtain their votes, but the workers must reflect on their problems," Pillay emphasized, surrounded by members of the new GWF executive organ.

Elaborating on the question, Pillay said that "especially since 1983, the political parties, once in power, forget their promises. What is worse, they use an antilabor language and speak of wildcat strikes, while using the army against the workers." Pillay emphasized the fact that wage earners have borne the greatest burden of austerity.

It was within such a context that the president of the GWF made an appeal to other trade union leaders for the formation of a common front. "Let us put aside our quarrels and divergencies and think about the future. May Day is an opportunity to rebuild unity," he said. He believes that the trade unions can bring out a common program.

He therefore proposed that in 1988, on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the first Labor Day in Mauritius, all trade union confederations should organize common activities. The president of the GWF asked political parties to "leave Labor Day to the workers" and not organize activities next year.

This year, the GWF expects to organize activities to mark the 50th anniversary of the Flacq shooting in 1937.

Two Unions Reject Front

Port Louis L'EXPRESS in French 13 Jun 87 pp 1, 7

/Text/ "You will surely realize that we are not prepared to adapt ourselves to the whims and caprices of others." This was the categorical reply made to the Mauritius Labor Congress (MLC) by two trade union federations asked by the MLC to participate in a common front on the question of the Pay Research Bureau (PRB).

Actually, in a response addressed to the MLC on 10 June and signed jointly by Karlo Jouan, president of the Federation of Progressive Unions (FPU), and T. Benydin, president of the Civil Service Trade Union Federation (FSSC), the officials of both organizations reminded the MLC that it had in the past boycotted certain moves aimed at a common front on questions of national interest. "You may recall that the MLC has on several occasions boycotted joint actions with us on important national issues."

The FSSC and the FPU blame the MLC for having made certain unfavorable comments to the press in December 1985 when they were working to obtain a year-end bonus and for having remained silent the following year when the FSSC and the FPU demanded wage compensation greater than that offered by the government.

The two federations believe that "as for the PRB issue, it would be dishonest to leave in the dark the role played by the FCSU and to try to take the leadership of the battle at this stage."

It should be recalled that the MLC had asked four federations: the FSSC, the FPU, the Federation of Unions of Constituent Bodies and the State Employees Federation into a common front for the purpose of forcing the government to respect its commitments on the question of the PRB.

Only two organizations, to wit, the FSCC, which works in cooperation with the MLC, and the SEF, responded to the MLC appeal for a meeting that took place Thursday afternoon.

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CSO: 3419/282

BOODHOO CRITICIZES POLICE, JUGNAUTH

Port Louis L'EXPRESS in French 11 Jun 87 pp 1, 7

/Excerpt/ "I am INSAF!" This was the statement made by Harish Boodhoo at a meeting in Vacoas yesterday afternoon, a meeting at which he would also bid politics farewell.

He emphasized that with this withdrawal from the political scene, his detractors would no longer have him as a scapegoat to assume the burden of certain responsibilities, particularly spreading racism, encouraging communalism or dividing the ethnic group of which he is a member.

Uncertain

Yesterday afternoon, Boodhoo chose as his targets the police, certain ministers, whose actions he harshly condemned, and the members of a society whom he accuses of being responsible for the division within the majority ethnic group.

He wondered why police officials have not taken measures against those who recently caused disturbances at meetings held by members of his group. He clearly expressed his lack of confidence in certain higher police officials.

Speaking of certain ministers, Boodhoo did not fail to condemn their outlandish spending at a hotel casino, the fact that homes were built for them in London or Paris and cases of nepotism.

The speaker also said that during the 24 years of political life of Anerood Jugnauth, the latter had for 20 years opposed the late Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam. He said that the majority ethnic group had never been so divided as under Jugnauth's administration.

He particularly challenged one minister in the current government, who, he said, "will lead the country straight to ruin."

Boodhoo indicated that if he were now asked to make a deposition before the Rault Commission, he would refuse. He thanked the attorneys who helped him in his depositions before that commission.

General Elections

Speaking of the politicians, Boodhoo believes there is some apathy in the country. He has found that the temptation to seek material advantages is very great among the population.

Despite assurances that he will remain out of politics, he stressed that he will speak to the voters in districts Nos 11 and 12 in connection with partial elections if they take place.

He stressed that he "would do nothing for the general elections" and that if ever he were asked after these elections to play any role on the political scene, he "would consider the possibility."

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CSO: 3419/282

BOODHOO URGES BOYCOTT OF ALLIANCE PARTY

Port Louis L'EXPRESS in French 14 Jun 87 pp 1, 5

/Text/ "Do not vote for the Alliance in the coming partial elections in districts Nos 12 and 13." Such were the instructions issued yesterday by Harish Boodhoo, former strong man of the regime, to voters of Mahebourg-Plaine Magnien et Souillac-Riviere des Anguilles at his last meeting in Riviere des Anguilles before his withdrawal from the political scene.

"Voting for the Alliance means backing drug trafficking and political immorality," the former PSM /Mauritian Socialist Party/ leader said. "On a question of principle, the Alliance and Anerood Jugnauth must be taught a lesson. If the country needs me after the next general elections, I shall return," he added.

The former campaign manager of the Alliance recalled that he was kicked out of the MSM /Mauritius Socialist Movement/ while four drug traffickers and "merchants of death are still sitting in Parliament."

Lack of Punch

The former deputy prime minister and minister of information believes that in the face of the decadence or political morality, there should have been "civil disobedience," but "not one person can organize that" now he has retired from politics. In his opinion, the parliamentary opposition "lacks punch" and has not been sufficiently aggressive after the Amsterdam affair.

Suffering

"I am leaving politics, but I am not bitter and my conscience does not bother me," Boodhoo said, also emphasizing the "suffering" that the Alliance leadership has inflicted on him for 14 months.

Scandals, Low Blows

The former leader of the MSM-PTr-PMSD /Labor Party-Mauritian Social Democratic Party/ Alliance spoke of his contribution to the development of the country, of the scandals surrounding the obtention of bus operating permits, the Plessey affair, his resignation from Parliament and the low blows dealt him by his friends in the Alliance. He believes that Jugnauth would not have been prime minister today without him, V. Lutchmeenaraidoo would not have been deputy prime minister and Sir Veerasamy Ringadoo would not have been governor general.

Making the Government Dance

He gave assurance that he would make a deposition before a commission investigating the Plessey scandal if one is ever instituted. "If I am in the opposition, I can make the government dance," Boodhoo said. He then spoke of the civil disobedience he organized in 1979 to protest the budget measures presented by Sir Veerasamy Ringadoo, former minister of finance of the late Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam.

Chinese-Mauritian Relations

The former architect of the Alliance criticized Jugnauth's visit to Taiwan. It could have broken diplomatic relations between Mauritius and the People's Republic of China. If not for his intervention, such a break in diplomatic relations would have occurred.

Relations between an agent of the Alliance and Libya did not escape Boodhoo's criticisms.

Prem Nababsing

He then stressed that voters must demand clean candidates and within that context, said that "we need candidates of the stripe of Dr Prem Nababsing."

According to the former strong man of the regime, the Labor Party had suffered a stinging defeat in the partial elections "because the Labor Government has shifted to the right, to repression and the camp of the private sector. This government engages in immorality, the camp of the merchants of death, in the camp of the Mafia, in lies."

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CSO: 3419/282

FINANCE MINISTER DISCUSSES SAVINGS PLAN, DEBT, BORROWING

Port Louis L'EXPRESS in French 31 May 87 pp 1, 5

/Text/ A savings plan for all Mauritians will soon be announced by V. Lutchmeenaraidoo, deputy prime minister and minister of finance. The plan will be applied at the same time as the report of the Pay Research Bureau (PRB), for the specific purpose of preventing the situation of "hyperliquidity" that will be created from having negative effects such as inflation.

It was Lutchmeenaraidoo himself who announced the plan at a press conference yesterday, during which he reviewed the economic situation.

The minister of finance repeated that the increase in wages will inevitably spread and necessarily reach all sectors, including the private sector. However, he emphasized that this will unfailingly create pressure on the cost of industrial labor. He warned against the adverse effects that this could have on the competitiveness of Mauritian industry compared with foreign industry.

Lutchmeenaraidoo held his press conference after the working meetings of the delegation from the International Monetary Fund and that of Mauritius last week.

Investments

He recalled that according to estimates, investments in the capital budget for the 1986-1987 fiscal year totaled 1.6 billion rupees, but with the acceleration in economic growth, that figure rose to 2 billion, an increase of 400 million rupees in the capital budget.

Losses

During the same period, Mauritius diversified its industry toward sectors other than textiles, a field in which the recent customs rationalization caused the government a loss in revenue of some 200 million rupees. The rationalization in the sectors of printing, leather goods and jewelry (to be announced in the weeks ahead) will make up for the losses.

"However, we have deliberately caused this loss in revenue as prices rose in other domains because costly investments often bring in more income in medium- and long-range terms," Lutchmeenaraidoo said, adding that massive

investments over the next 2 years will still cause temporary losses, but have a favorable impact in medium- or long-range terms, aiding industrial development and employment.

Growth

The minister also announced that for the first time in the budget history of Mauritius, real revenue will exceed estimates by 525 million rupees. According to him, this major growth mainly results from a surplus recorded in corporate income taxes, customs duties, the stamp duty, and so on.

Public Debts

Thanks to a new strategy in the field of public debts, the latter were reduced from 4.83 billion to 4.7 billion rupees, a total of 130 million rupees. The cumulative effect of these two items made it possible for the budgetary deficit for 1986-1987 to be only 3.4 percent instead of the anticipated 5 percent.

"All of this indicates a savings in the midst of full growth and the fact that the 1986-1987 budget did not experience harmful effects from a pre-election period. Rather, it continued along its path, especially regarding public spending," Lutchmeenaraidoo said.

Foreign Debt

Concerning the foreign debt, the minister added that it had been reduced from 8,578,000,000 rupees in 1985 to 7.5 billion in 1986, a total of 1,078,000,000 rupees.

"Naturally, this is partly due to the depreciation of the dollar, but over the past 4 years, we have reduced foreign borrowing to the maximum extent. We can therefore be proud of being among the few countries in the world in this situation, despite the completion of major development projects. Mauritius is paying more on its debts than it is contracting for new ones! Service on the debt, which was 26.7 percent of our export receipts in 1986-1987, fell to 11.7 percent in 1986-1987. This new figure is tolerable and we have planned that the service on the debt will continue to drop, although Air Mauritius hopes to buy two Boeing 767's next week for the sum of 2 billion rupees," Lutchmeenaraidoo said.

Loans

The minister of finance also thought it was interesting to see that the private sector could henceforth contract private loans abroad, when the government had previously been the biggest borrower.

GDP

"In addition, it should be noted that the per capita gross domestic product (a striking economic indicator) went from 12,300 rupees in 1983 to 20,000

rupees in 1986-1987, an impressive figure that represents an increase of 65 percent in only 4 years! If that trend continues, we hope to attain the threshold of 24,000 rupees very quickly, which will represent an increase on the order of 100 percent in 6 years. This is what most surprised the members of both delegations last week," Lutchmeenaraidoo added.

Sugar

The minister also said it was a very good thing that sugar would have less and less importance in the Mauritian economy. When sugar represented 80 percent of our export receipts, a cyclone was enough to bring Mauritius to its knees. But in 1977, that proportion fell to 70 percent and in 1987, it will be only 36 percent, at the same time the proportion of the free zone in our export receipts rose from 21 to 57 percent during the same period. Lutchmeenaraidoo hopes that in 5 years, the proportion of sugar in that field will not be over 25 percent.

Reserves

Our reserves today amount to 2.8 billion rupees, representing 14 weeks worth of imports. In 1983, they amounted to only 2 weeks! In the area of savings, enormous progress has been made. Mauritius has evolved psychologically toward the wisdom of saving. Ten years ago, we were a spending nation. As far as jobs are concerned, we fell below the fateful figure of 50,000," the minister said.

"I would like to address a few words of caution to the people. Even the best of things can lead to problems and we must remain vigilant. Already, for example, there is a shortage of labor in certain sectors. It is definitely a good thing that, with the help of competition, the worker should enjoy an improvement in his standard of living, but that increase in basic wages will also have its overall drawbacks," Lutchmeenaraidoo concluded.

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CSO: 3419/283

GOVERNMENT SPENDING WILL RISE IN 1987-88

Port Louis L'EXPRESS in French 3 Jun 87 pp 1, 5

/Text/ The government's budgeted spending for the 1987-1988 fiscal year will total some 5.5 billion rupees, an increase of some 10 to 15 percent. Sources close to budget officials said early in the week that an increase in spending of some 12 percent for the next fiscal year would not be at all exaggerated.

The sharp increase is mainly explained by the implementation of wage recommendations of the Pay Research Bureau (PRB), while considering the annual 3-percent increase for increments.

End of May

One thus comes to the conclusion that the average wage increase in government jobs might be on the order of 20 percent, inasmuch as the wage mass in the civil service makes up about 50 percent of all government spending.

Concerning preparations for the 1987-1988 budget--the fiscal year begins in less than a month--all ministries and other departments of the government have had to submit their proposals to the Ministry of Finance by the end of last week at the latest.

Discussions between finance experts and those in the other ministries should begin between now and next week, official sources hint. However, they add that there are two unknowns in this area.

First of all, wage recommendations of the Pay Research Bureau (PRB) will not be made public for a month, followed by the political situation.

Regarding the latter, those familiar with budget drafting claim that 90 percent of the estimates can be made in the absence of any political directive, inasmuch as this aspect is nothing but bookkeeping.

Calls for Bids

Regarding the development budget, there is still talk of an "on-going project" to be included. However, it must be emphasized that the Tender Board has just issued three major international calls for bids.

The deadline for quotations comes at the end of August. The three projects are the purchase of a boat to replace the "MV Mauritius," expansion of the telephone system and construction of two new thermal power plants.

The cost of replacing the "MV Mauritius" is an estimated 100 million rupees and several countries, including Great Britain, the Federal Republic of Germany and Taiwan, are interested in the project. The main specifications of the boat are that it weigh 3,000 tons and have the capacity to carry some 300 passengers, plus livestock.

Several countries, including Great Britain, France and Japan, have noted their intention of submitting bids to expand the telephone system (an additional 30,000 lines).

Great Britain will be represented by the equally famous General Electric Company (GEC) Telecommunications Department. A GEC delegation in Mauritius at the end of the first quarter is expected any time to conclude negotiations with the government.

GEC Telecommunications, Ltd. is now trying to convince Port-Louis to adopt the X system which it developed with the Plessey firm. Cost of the project is an estimated 100 million rupees.

Timing

Construction of two thermal power plants, which decision was made at the latest meeting of the Paris advisory group, would require investments of some 125 million.

However, the matter of the timing of the presentation of the budget remains open.

A major lobby insists that the budget be presented before the coming general elections, while the "zougadere invetere" offers early elections before presentation of the budget at 375 rupees for a gain of 500 rupees (not refundable!), because the "Tattersalls" are not required for bets under the table!

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CSO: 3419/283

TAX ON LEATHER GOODS ABOLISHED

Port Louis L'EXPRESS in French 5 Jun 87 pp 1, 5

/Text/ The government decided yesterday to abolish customs duties and the stamp duty on the importation of elements, component parts and accessories involved in the manufacture of leather goods. The tax on the reexportation of "bunker," diesel fuel, fuel oil, other types of fuel and any other product in transit in Mauritius was also abolished. Such measures are effective today.

Announcing these decisions to the press yesterday, V. Lutchmeenaraidoo, minister of finance, said that "it is a challenge we must face, one that will enable Mauritius to become a great center for the manufacture, sale and exportation of leather goods.

Basic Diversification

The minister believes that the abolition of customs duties and the stamp tax affecting leather goods will result in a substantial drop in the price of shoes, luggage, watchbands and leather garments, as was the case with textile products.

The decision fits in with the government's policy, which is to diversify the bases of its economy and industrial development as much as possible. The decision will also result in the creation of a large number of jobs in the sectors.

Abolition of customs duties and the stamp duty on the articles in question will result in losses of some 60 million rupees for the government. According to the minister, the figure could even go as high as 100 million rupees before presentation of the next budget. But in the long run, Mauritius will come out ahead, he added.

90 Million Rupees

After sugar, textiles and tourism, our goal is to make leather goods a major export revenue earner.

Imports of heels and soles now amount to 90 million rupees a year. For leather and leather goods, annual imports amount to 40 and 50 million rupees respectively.

Customs duties and the stamp duty abolished concern leather, chemical substances, dyes, laces, eyelets, machinery and other necessary equipment, molds, leather goods and other parts used in making shoes.

A committee headed by planning director R. Bheenick was set up to coordinate a crash training program for professional labor to be employed in leather goods manufacturing.

In addition, a delegation from the Mauritius Export Development and Investment Authority (MEDIA) will soon go to Europe and the Far East to seek foreign partners anxious to invest in joint ventures in Mauritius in leather goods, printing and jewelry.

The minister emphasized that the transfer of technology and professional training will give these sectors and that of leather goods the means to manufacture quality products to be exported.

Between 20 and 50 Percent

The MEDIA prospecting mission will try to attract Nike, Adidas and other internationally known shoe and athletic shoe manufacturers, as well as producers of other leather goods, to come set up in Mauritius.

Customs duties on accessories, elements and component parts involved in the manufacture of leather goods had previously varied between 20 and 50 percent. The stamp duty was 17 percent of the CIF value of the product.

The (export) tax on "bunker" (fuel for planes and ships) has also been abolished. That tax varied between 1 and 10 percent of the CIF value of the product and also concerned the reexportation of any product going through Mauritius.

The minister also brought up projects aimed at bringing meat and automobiles through Mauritius.

After textiles and leather goods, the next sector in which the government might abolish customs duties and the stamp duty would be jewelry.

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CSO: 3419/283

DEVELOPMENT BANK REPORTS ON PUBLIC SPENDING

Port Louis L'EXPRESS in French 6 Jun 87 pp 1, 5

/Text/ Wage proposals of the Pay Research Bureau (PRB) were the subject of an important working meeting held at the Government Palace yesterday. Prime Minister Aneerood Jugnauth was briefed by Minister of Finance Vishnu Lutchmeenaraidoo on the Pay Research Bureau (PRB) report.

None of the participants wished to make any public comment after the meeting, but authorized sources said that the high-level discussions were part of the latest preparations before publication of the PRB report.

When questioned by L'EXPRESS yesterday afternoon, the minister emphasized that the deadline for publication of the new wage scales in the civil service and paragovernment agencies was 15 July.

His only comment was "Things are moving along," when asked about the final preparations. According to other well-informed sources, the finance minister was to inform the head of the government on the major official wage proposals since he will be leaving for 2 weeks today. The minister will go to Cairo to attend the annual general assembly of the African Development Bank.

In addition, it is rumored at the Government Palace that the Pay Research Bureau recommendations could be included on the agenda for ministerial discussions scheduled for Thursday, 2 July, 24 hours after the wage proposals theoretically go into effect.

According to the same sources, the salaries of the ministers and members of Parliament will be greatly increased, "which would be an additional attraction for a longer list of candidates for deputy seats in the coming elections," some think.

Moreover, the salary of a chief of staff (permanent secretary) would be around 12,000 rupees a month. However, this figure remains to be confirmed in the official report to be made public in a month, a report anxiously awaited by some 70,000 civil service employees.

Reclassification of Mauritius

Concerning the economic situation of Mauritius with respect to other countries, the World Bank has reclassified it. The Mauritian economy will now

be closer to that of some larger African countries, particularly Sudan, Zimbabwe or Kenya, while previously, Mauritius was with the Seychelles, Madagascar or the Comoro Islands.

Explaining the decision, according to a bulletin issued by the Government Palace, the World Bank vice president for Africa, Jaycox, stated that "because of its successful economic management policies, Mauritius has been put in a group of countries where her voice will be heard better."

In addition, Mauritius' industrial performance has received favorable comments in the board of directors' report concerning the loan to the industrial sector. That document circulated in Washington D.C. mentions that "in a little more than a decade, Mauritius had moved from a sugar-based economy to becoming a success story of export-led manufacturing growth. Some 50,000 new jobs were created. Much of the evolution could be credited to the foresight of the government of Mauritius, which has sought to cumulate the industrialization experience of Hong Kong, Taiwan and Singapore."

The economic report on Africa for 1987, published by the African Development Bank and the Economic Commission for Africa, recalls that over the past 12 years, the annual growth in public spending has been clearly superior to that of public receipts.

Mauritius is among the leading group with an unfavorable gap of 2.1 percent, compared with a favorable gap of 5.1 percent for Cameroon or 8.1 percent for Rwanda or even +.3 percent for Tanzania.

Over the past 12 years, the rate of growth was on the order of 17.7 percent, compared with 19.8 percent for public spending.

Consequently, the joint report of the African Development Bank and the African Economic Commission recalls that it is essential to "further reduce the rate of lowering public spending in order to permit greater mobilization of saving."

Saving

Concerning saving, the report also reviews Mauritius' situation with respect to other African countries. Mauritius is among the only five countries out of a group of 20 registering a negative public saving-gross domestic product ratio, while the situation of the private saving-gross domestic product seems well under control. For the past 12 years, Mauritius has obtained an unfavorable score of -.03 for public saving and +.21 for private saving. The private saving-public saving ratio is 1.17 percent, confirming that "it is almost entirely the private sector that is the sources of almost all saving."

Bank Deposits

According to the latest report of the Bank of Mauritius, the QUARTERLY REVIEW, Vol XVIII, made public this week, bank deposits amounted to some 7.5 billion

rupees, or 2.8 billion in savings deposits, 3.3 billion in time deposits and 1.4 billion in time deposits [sic]. Personal savings make up the largest portion (92 percent) of all savings accounts, totaling 2.6 billion of the 2.8 billion rupees in commercial banks at the end of September of last year.

Economic projections at the beginning of the year show that gross domestic savings, compared with the gross domestic product, will reach 26.1 percent in 1987, compared with 17.1 percent in 1983 and 24.5 percent last year.

In conclusion, one interesting detail: At the end of September of last year, the Bank of Mauritius had 39 savings accounts with over 1 million rupees, compared with 13 such accounts in September 1984.

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CSO: 3419/283

MAURITIUS

FLOUR MILL PROJECT HAS GREEN LIGHT

Port Louis L'EXPRESS in French 4 Jun 87 pp 1, 7

/Text/ The economic development of Mauritius will enter a new phase with the decision made by backers of the flour mill construction project, the Management and Development Company (a Mauritian firm) and Namib Mills Pty, Ltd (a Namibian company), to ask the public to underwrite the capital of the enterprise.

The Mauritian Government gave the green light to the project last week. Michel de Speville, chairman of the board of the Management and Development Company, Ltd, told L'EXPRESS that the flour mill will be able to meet local flour consumption needs (60,000 tons), despite modifications in the initial project.

The mill will be built in the port zone between Piers C and D. Construction will get underway before the end of the year. The backers propose to do everything possible to get the flour mill in operation by the end of next year.

If everything goes well, flour produced in Mauritius from imported wheat will be sold early in 1989. The cost of the project is an estimated 150 million rupees. The mill will provide jobs for 200 persons. A large share of the personnel will be trained abroad, in Namibia and Europe, especially in countries that produce wheat flour, France and Switzerland, for example.

Startup of the mill will enable Mauritius to save some 70 million rupees annually.

At the present time, wheat flour is imported from France and Australia by the State Trading Corporation.

The wheat will arrive in bulk and be pumped to Pier D and taken by conveyor belt to the silos at Pier C. There it will be stored before being milled and stored in depots for sale on the local market in 50-kg bags.

The flour mill will have eight silos with a total capacity of 20,000 tons of wheat. Provisions have also been made to increase the storage capacity if it should ever be necessary. Five to six shipments of from 10,000 to 15,000 tons of wheat each will be imported annually.

Initially, the project to build the flour mill was estimated to cost a little over 300 million rupees. Despite the modification, the mill will be able to meet the country's flour needs, De Speville believes.

The new project will not require any dredging of the roadstead or reinforcement of the piers. The concept of the silos has also been modified.

The rice shelling project is delayed until the second phase of developing the flour mill.

The Management and Development Company proposes to engage in discussions in the coming weeks with the Mauritius Marine Authority (MMA) concerning the mill. De Speville will go abroad on Sunday for more far-reaching contacts on the matter.

He noted that equipment, technology, silos, hygiene and efficiency will all be of a very high level. Five sources of wheat have been identified, particularly Australia, the United States, the United Kingdom, Saudi Arabia and France.

"What is important," De Speville emphasized, "is that the public will be given an opportunity to invest in a national enterprise, since flour is a basic food staple of the Mauritian people.

"The flour mill will have a production capacity of 350 tons of flour a day. It will operate 24 hours a day and with 200 working days, we could meet local demand," he said. Management will be in the hands of Mauritians.

De Speville believes that flour made locally will be competitive compared with imported flour. However, it will enable the country to earn some 70 million rupees in added value, without counting the number of jobs that will be created and the fallout on other sectors of the Mauritian economy. Nevertheless, he said, we shall insist to the government that so-called dumping of foreign flour on the local market must not be authorized.

The flour mill will have the means to make several varieties of flour based on demand. In addition to the impact on the national economy, it will enable Mauritians to have a fresh product and will give a new boom to cattle raising, in accordance with the government's policy of encouraging local production of milk and meat. De Speville believes that the project should open the way to research into wheat growing and the production of compound flour. In addition, wheat flour is mixed with manioc and sweet potato flour to make certain products.

It would be desirable, he said, for part of the monetary mass (about a billion) that will be on the market with the application of the reports of the Pay Research Bureau and the National Remuneration Board (wage revision) in the public and private sectors, to be invested in this project of national interest, one that fits into Mauritius' economic development policy.

If everything goes as planned, the first bread and cakes made with flour produced in Mauritius will be on the market in 1989.

BRIEFS

CALL TO ELIMINATE SUGAR TAX--It will be necessary to await the results of the Sugar Industry Efficiency Survey toward the end of 1987 before seeing any salutary change in the sugar export tax, J. Maurice Paturau, coordinator of the private sector, noted, concluding a historical review of the subject in the June 1987 issue of PROSI and entitled "Sugar Export Tax: Necessary Elimination." However, as Paturau recalls, in his 1983 report, Avramovic stated that "this system of taxation has turned out to be an inflexible instrument in adversity" and in its report on the Mauritian sugar industry (1985), the World Bank suggested the need for a revision. Nevertheless, nothing was done to change the government's harmful policy. "Large sums have been paid by sugar producers to the government in the form of this export tax, and when one realizes the overriding need for a modernization of the industry, one can only deplore this ill-advised use of our resources outside of a priority sector," Paturau emphasized, concluding as follows: "While the Mauritian sugar industry now enjoys the dubious privilege of being the world leader with respect to the export tax, it must not despair, for in Recife, Brazil, the sugar export duty in 1642 /sic/ was 24.6 percent of the value of the product. This tax had to be gradually eliminated to prevent the Brazilian sugar industry from disappearing. Let us take heed." According to estimates, miller-planters will pay some 480 million rupees in export taxes (88 percent of the total) to the government, while independent planters will pay 65 million (12 percent), out of a total of 545 million rupees. An individual producer exporting 3,000 tons of sugar has paid an export tax of 23.625 percent since 1984 on a sliding scale according to which the least efficient producer pays less than his more efficient colleague. /Excerpt/ /Port Louis L'EXPRESS in French 1 Jun 87 pp 1, 3/ 11,464

LABOR SHORTAGE FOR SUGAR HARVEST--Prime Minister Anerood Jugnauth foresees labor difficulties for the sugar harvest about to begin. Actually, during his visit to the district of Mahebourg-Plaine Magnien, as part of the campaign of mobilization looking to the partial general elections, Jugnauth referred to this special problem in speaking of the new proposals concerning working conditions made by the National Remuneration Board (NRB) for employees in the manufacturing free zone. The prime minister hinted that the wage board for the private sector had already drafted its recommendations. In addition to a wage increase on the order of 15 percent in that important economic sector, the leader of the Alliance mentioned the granting of fringe benefits and the establishment of a benevolent fund. Based on these elements, the prime minister wondered how "certains dimoune pou envl reste nene." Regarding the situation in the sugar industry, the prime minister

said that "sa l'annee-la pou gagne move tracas pou gagne dimoune pou coupe cannes." /Excerpt/ /Port Louis L'EXPRESS in French 12 Jun 87 pp 1, 5/ 11,464

SUGAR CROP STATUS REPORT--The height of the sugar cane, according to measurements made in the fields on 15 May, is 4 percent greater than it was last year at the same time. The figures used were an average for the island. However, a test of the richness of the cane shows that it is 1 percent under the figure for 1986, although this negative factor may improve during the ripening period. Concerning the height of the cane on 15 May, it is clearly higher in the north and the south, slightly higher in the center, the same in the west but far lower in the east than it was last year, whence the overall higher average of 4 percent for this year. One must note that observations seem to indicate that while the cane has grown satisfactorily (whence the greater height than in 1986 on 15 May), it has a smaller diameter. If this observation is confirmed, it is to be feared that the tonnage of cane harvested this year may be lower than it was last year (6,024,962 tons, compared with the record of 6,581,862 tons in 1982). Obviously, it will all depend on the ripening period, which has already begun, and the average rate of extraction obtained this year. (The average rate of extraction in 1986 was 11.73 percent, while the average record of 11.82 percent came in 1971.) Signs of a good extraction rate for this season are not obvious at this point. With all the elements, those in the sugar industry estimate that sugar production this year will be around 675,000 tons, but the Chamber of Agriculture has not yet issued any official estimate. The 1987 cutting will probably begin in Beau-Champ around 15 June. It will be officially begun by the minister of agriculture on 1 July in Beau-Plan. The last plant to begin its activities will be St.-Antoine, around 6 July. /Text/ /Port Louis L'EXPRESS in French 3 Jun 87 p 7/ 11,464

CSO: 3419/281

POLLS ON CONSTITUTION, 'SECOND TIER' SEEN POSSIBLE

Contrasting Drafts Presented

Johannesburg THE STAR in English 3 Aug 87 p 9

[Article by Brendan Seery]

[Text]

WINDHOEK — The two different draft constitutions presented to Namibia's National Assembly on Thursday represent a study in contrasts.

The proposals came directly from the Constitutional Council which began deliberations in January last year on formulating a new political dispensation for the territory.

The 18-member body, comprised of representatives of all six parties in Windhoek's transitional government, completed its work in June and it immediately became clear that unanimity had not been achieved.

A total of 14 members of the council were in favour of a draft proposal they had thrashed out under the guidance of chairman Judge Victor Hiemstra. Four council members — two from the National Party of South West Africa and two from the Rehoboth Free Democratic Party — disagreed and the NP-SWA submitted its own set of proposals.

The majority proposals have the support of Left-leaning members of the transitional government including Mr Dirk Mudge, Mr Andreas Shipanga and Mr Moses Katjiuongua.

In many respects, the constitution they approve is similar to that granted to Zimbabwe at the Lancaster House talks.

The system envisaged by Mr Mudge and his colleague is a Westminster-type democracy with:

- A National Assembly (or lower House) of 60 members elected in a one-man, one-vote national poll.

- A Senate (or upper House) of 28 members elected by an electoral college of the National Assembly and by the President on the recommendation of the Cabinet.

- A figurehead president.
- Executive power residing in a Prime Minister and a Cabinet of Ministers.
- A Bill of Fundamental Rights.
- Regional councils subservient to Parliament and responsible for local affairs.
- An independent judiciary.

The NP-SWA draft contains many similar features to those included in the document approved by the majority of the Constitutional Council members.

These include the office of a figurehead President, a Prime Minister and Cabinet of Ministers, a Bill of Fundamental Rights and an independent judiciary.

However, in keeping with its stated commitment to defend what it calls "group and minority rights", the NP-SWA's proposed constitution plans a future dispensation that would be little different from the current system of ethnic administrations instituted here by South Africa in 1980.

The NP-SWA blueprint calls for:

- A National Assembly of 72 members with half elected in a nation-wide poll and half from "group councils".
- Group councils with wide powers to make bye-laws affecting people in their own group. Control over education, health and social services, as well as land by the group for its members assured. (Groups are defined as being members of the 11 different ethnic and racial groupings currently recognised in the second-tier administrative system.)
- A Bill of Fundamental Rights which specific provisions guaranteeing each population group the right to practise, protect and maintain their

own culture, religion and traditions. The Bill would also allow private schools and with parents all having a say in the education of their children.

One of the most important provisions in the Bill of Fundamental Rights is one which says that no one should be "compelled or prohibited" from associating with anyone else.

While the majority-approved proposals call for a unitary state with a strong central government, the NP-SWA places more emphasis on a federal-type system in which separate development could continue under the auspices of the group councils.

Although, under the NP-SWA draft it would be possible that whites would end up with less than eight seats in the National Assembly, there is an important provision which says that the Assembly may not override the guaranteed right of the group councils to handle their "own affairs".

The two draft documents differ on a number of less important, but still significant points.

The majority draft, for instance, wants the name "Namibia" for the territory whereas the Nats still want "South West Africa".

A provision in the majority-approved draft calls for a review of Afrikaans continuing as an official language 10 years after independence. The NP-SWA does not countenance any such review.

South Africa is known to support the NP-SWA's stand on the protection of minority rights — a point emphasised recently when Foreign Minister Mr Pik Botha and Defence Minister General Magnus Malan visited Windhoek for talks with their counterparts here.

Now that the two proposals have been tabled, there will be a call for additional inputs from interested parties and, if a final agreement can be reached between all concerned on a draft, then the document may be put to the country in a referendum.

Leaders' Test of Strength

Johannesburg THE STAR in English 4 Aug 87 p 12

[Article by Brendan Seery]

[Text] In spring, many a politician's fancy turns to elections.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher did so earlier this year and now, as the temperatures start climbing again in Windhoek, some Namibians and their "Big Brother" in Pretoria are also catching the fever.

South Africa's Administrator-General in Windhoek, Mr Louis Pienaar, last week let the territory's six-party Transitional Government know that his boss — State President Mr P W Botha — believed elections in Namibia were a matter of necessity and some urgency.

But not national polls of the one-man-one-vote type, Mr Pienaar made it plain. South Africa remains officially committed to the implementation of the United Nations Resolution 435 settlement plan and any general election would renege on that commitment.

Pillars of policy

The polls envisaged are for the various municipalities and for the "second tier" ethnic authorities, which were set up by South African Government decree in 1980. These

pillars of the policy of separate development have not seen any elections since they were instituted in 1980, while some municipalities have not had general polls for 13 years.

South Africa's official stance is that elections at ethnic administration and municipal level will give the voters of Namibia the chance to express their opinion about whether the current constitutional structures should be changed.

Mr Pienaar also said polls would enable the relative strengths of the country's political leaders to be gauged, as well as involving the "biggest percentage possible of the voting public" in the democratic process.

The spring fancies of Mr Pienaar and Mr Botha have upset some members of the Transitional Government and led some commentators to speculate about a confrontation between Pretoria and its Windhoek proteges.

However, although there are those in Windhoek who are strongly opposed to the idea of any elections other than one man, one vote, South Africa's desires are shared by a number of Namibian politicians.

Chief among the opponents of the latest South African suggestions is

Mr Dirk Mudge. As leader of the Republican Party, a breakaway offshoot of the National Party of South West Africa (NP-SWA), Mr Mudge claims that voting in any election for a second tier authority will merely be perpetuating apartheid and separate development along "bantustan" lines.

His party holds a minority position in the White Legislative Assembly and decided not to fight the recent by-election in the Mariental constituency for this reason. The seat was won by the NP-SWA in a straight fight with the HNP.

Mr Mudge in fact called for a boycott of the election by voters and he may have succeeded to some extent, as the NP-SWA's winning candidate polled a mere 30 percent of the registered voters.

The NP-SWA, as a member of the Transitional Government along with Mr Mudge is, by contrast, a strong supporter of second tier elections. Its leaders are optimistic, and with some justification, that they would increase the party's already strong position among the white electorate.

The Nats have some odd allies in their support for the second tier polls. Mr Peter Kalangula, who has so far remained silent on Mr Pienaar's latest statement, has in the past indicated his support for an election in his stronghold of Owambo.

Mr Kalangula, as chairman of the Owambo Administration and head of the Christian Democratic Action for Social Justice Party, has considerable support, and he knows it. Although he is an outspoken critic of

most things South African — and particularly the presence of South African troops in his area — he must still be tempted by the idea of elections which would strengthen his position.

Without Swapo taking part in an election in Owambo, it is likely Mr Kalangula and his party would steamroller the black parties in the Transitional Government.

Mr Justus Garoeb, leader of the Damara Administration, is also a critic of South Africa and the Transitional Government, but would probably go along with the idea of elections, if only to consolidate his own power base. There is similar support for second tier elections among other groups, too.

So it seems there are at least a few willing players for South Africa's "election game" and the opposition to the concept is not as unified as some commentators make out.

Of course, Pretoria is very persuasive, although official sources say its feeling were conveyed to the Transitional Government in the nature of suggestions. The Windhoek politicians have until August 19 to give their reply, although this is by no means an ultimatum.

Far from provoking a spat between the Transitional Government and South Africa, Mr Pienaar's suggestions could, in fact, start serious discussions within the Windhoek Administration itself.

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CSO: 3400/0279

COPPER MINERS STRIKE MARKS GROWING UNION MOVEMENT

Johannesburg THE WEEKLY MAIL in English 6 Aug 87 p 15

[Article by Eddie Koch]

[Text]

A STRIKE by thousands of workers at three copper mines in Namibia this week highlighted a recent upsurge of worker organisation that could become a new force in the fight for the territory's independence.

About 4 600 workers at the Tsumeb Corporation's Kombat, Tsumeb and Otjihase mines stopped work on Monday in the latest of a series of strikes and worker demonstrations that have erupted in the past few weeks.

"This is the biggest stoppage in Namibia since the strike wave in 1977 and symbolises the growing importance of the trade union movement in the political struggle," said Ben Ulenga, general secretary of the Mineworkers' Union of Namibia.

The mineworkers' demands include a 120 percent increase in wages of R1,02 an hour (R195 a month), a 45 hour working week, paid annual leave and free mattresses for the concrete slabs on which hostel miners sleep.

Ulenga said other demands include an end to the contract labour system, no racial discrimination and "an unequivocal statement from the company in opposition to the war waged by racist South Africa in the north of Namibia".

Similar demands were made in May Day demonstrations attended this year by 35 000 workers, a two-month boycott of white stores in Tsumeb that preceded the miners' stoppage and strikes that rocked the fishing and meat processing industries in June and July.

The wave of militancy reflects a reorganisation of the Swapo-affiliated National Union of Namibian Mineworkers, said NUNW press officer Anton Lubowski. The labour organisation, formed after most of the old leadership went into detention or exile. But in the past 15 months about 32 000 workers have been recruited into NUNW's ranks through:

- The Namibian Food and Allied Union, which has 12 000 members in the meat processing, commercial food and fish canning industries in Windhoek, Walvis Bay and Luderitz as well as in shops and hostels.

- The MUN which has 10 000 members on diamond mines, Rossing uranium mine and other smaller mines.

- The Metal and Allied Namibian Workers Union which was launched in May this year with a membership of between 8 000 and 10 000 in the building industry, small engineering works and garages.

- A public sector union which is due to be launched in the near future.

The extent of the fledgling unions rapid growth becomes clear when one realises Namibia has a population of only 1,3-million.

Asked to explain the political significance of the burgeoning movement, Swapo's secretary for labour Jason Kangula said: "Swapo started as a workers' movement and always had a close relationship with migrant workers ... Swapo has had three levels — mobilisation, diplomacy and the military. The internal wing is concerned only with diplomacy and the mobilisation and the union movement is part of that way of operating."

But some academic observers believe the organisation realises it came to rely on armed struggle and international diplomatic initiatives in the Seventies and Eighties at the expense of building mass-based structures in the country.

Andre du Pisani, director of the SA Institute for International Affairs and author of a recent book on Namibian history, believes that in the past 15 years Swapo has concentrated on an effective diplomatic strategy and a less successful guerrilla struggle, while neglecting to build a firm internal organisational base.

"In the Seventies ... Swapo wanted to use the church's communication network to legitimate its actions in terms of church philosophy as most members were Christians. But this did not provide a strong platform for political mobilisation," said Du Pisani.

When Swapo's guerrilla army suffered military setbacks in the Eighties, its internal wing had not developed the capacity to launch alternative domestic political campaigns.

Lubowski said the NUNW has been able to use its political programme to grow despite police raids on its offices and workers compounds in Luderitz and Windhoek recently.

Although black workers have the legal right to join unions and to strike, most employers are reluctant to recognise the unions. The NUNW does not yet have a single recognition agreement and no stop order facilities.

The territory also lacks defined collective bargaining procedures, has no industrial court and little legislation governing workers conditions of employment around which organisation can take place, said Lubowski.

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CSO: 3400/0280

GOVERNMENT SEEMS WARY OF FOREIGN INVESTMENT

London AFRICA ANALYSIS in English 10 Jul 87 pp 1-2

[Text]

LAGOS. Nigeria is entering the second year of its structural adjustment programme (SAP) on a rising tide of nationalism. So despite the enthusiasm of some big creditor banks, measures such as debt-equity swaps will not be favoured to ease the immediate economic strains. The military government is determined never to be accused of letting foreign investors gain a hold on domestic industries.

In particular, there is no chance that the \$4bn of trade debts - \$1.5bn now in the form of promissory notes - will be allowed, even at a severe discount, to begin life anew within the Nigerian economy. The leadership remains wary about the role of foreign banks.

A project is currently being evolved for the injection of \$500m from the World Bank in smaller Nigerian industries. The funds will be handled by 11 local banks, led by UBA. They have, significantly, been selected for their indigenous 'purity'. The industries, needing investments of up to around \$2m each, will serve local markets. Funds should start flowing from the World Bank early next year.

There is satisfaction in the central bank and the ministry of finance at the merging on schedule of the two currency tiers. This was organised by the central bank through a session with the financial institutions. Despite continuing complaints from the Manufacturers' Association of Nigeria about the way the SFEM has hit big business, there is no thought of changing course. Liquidity will stay tight, even if it means that some wellknown companies go to the wall. The wage freeze continues to limit the amount of money available, and stocks remain high.

The Babangida government has declared that the SAP will be completed in 1988; but it is highly conscious that domestic critics are watching the extent to which it will, in the next few months, follow the dictates of the international agencies. A cartoon in the latest issue of the magazine 'This Week' shows a wide-eyed army officer shaking hands with a hairy monster labelled 'SAP', which is offering him a bag of money; the monster has two heads, and one, marked IMF, is smirking.

The veteran socialist economist, Professor Sam Aluko, has condemned the severity of current policies, claiming that it is 'misplaced to use capitalist methods in a developing country'. But if the armed forces' ruling council (AFRC) must contend with both left and right at home, it can at least claim to be giving the international creditors a good run for their money. It is proposed that the complete

rescheduling package needs to be wrapped up by the end of September. Given the number of loose ends, especially involving the trade debts, this may prove yet another optimistic deadline. Some members of the AFRC are more preoccupied about the N10bn debts to local contractors than the external arrears.

The strength of the government's economic stance depends greatly on its good relations with the World Bank. Although Nigeria is now earning more than projected from its oil exports, the Bank will continue funding for the currency auctions. There is a modest role for the International Finance Corporation, which is starting a 'premier venture capital fund' with the naira equivalent of \$10m, partly subscribed from private sources.

Yet despite the World Bank's urgings, the chances for the wholesale privatisation of Nigerian parastatals grow dimmer by the day. Once again, national pride is showing itself - and is reinforced by vested interests. Committees and sub-committees have met, reports have been issued, but the wrangling drags on.

Official sources in Lagos say that the problems of recapitalisation of some of the companies - and of finding a realistic approach to disposing of government shares in such enterprises - look minor beside other headaches. Most fundamentally, pressures continue to mount inside and outside government to drop the whole privatisation programme and concentrate instead on 'commercialisation'.

Powerful interest groups, especially from the northern parts of Nigeria, vehemently oppose the disposal of parastatals. They argue that the Nigerian government has spent more than N2bn (at pre-SFEM rates) on them, with minimum returns. These groups not only forecast the loss of many jobs, plus higher prices for the services of parastatals - in electricity tariffs, railway fares and so on. They also fear that only a handful of people, especially in the south of Nigeria, will reap the rewards of privatisation.

The government's predicament is compounded by opposition from the Nigerian Labour Congress, and the Political Bureau's 'socialistic' report has condemned privatisation as the negation of the gains of the 1970s in economic nationalism and self-reliance. The bureau also expressed a fear that the benefits of divestment would go to only a few shareholders, instead of such profits being used to fund education, health, housing and rural infrastructures.

The bureau asserted that the liquidity squeeze associated with the SFEM limits the capital available from domestic entrepreneurs. Thus privatisation might open the door to multinationals. The government has merely said that it notes these fears.

Many in the Nigerian business community reckon that Babangida's greatest opposition of all will come from the civil service, which has always seen the parastatals as a source of political influence. It will be the civil servants' task to set guidelines for privatisation - and there could even be an element of economic sabotage.

The introduction of SFEM and the cancellation of import licences has already dealt a blow to the more corrupt officials. They have lost a lot in the past two years. The parastatals were a 'jobs for the boys' haven, and a UNDP team which came to Nigeria to advise on privatisation has pointed out how inefficiency is compounded by the horde of unsuitable board members.

Yet another privatisation hurdle is the attitude of some state governments. As the UNDP soon discovered, Lagos state - the wealthiest in Nigeria - is reluctant to divest itself of parastatals. It will be awkward for the federal government to sell off companies it jointly owns with obstinate state administrations. Lagos state says it will only support sales if the buyers are 'acceptable'.

The Kaduna state government is even more emphatic. The forceful governor, Lt. Col. Abubakar Umar - who has a name for socialist attitudes - says that the state has no intention of privatising its parastatals. The state sees privatisation as the responsibility of the federal government and officials say the state is even ready to buy the federal government's shares in parastatals up for sale. If it cannot, it is ready to ask the New Nigerian Development Corporation to do so. Kaduna jointly owns the NNDC with the nine other northern states.

In his speech on 1 July, giving the timetable for the return to civilian rule, Babangida spoke of the misuse of public funds in the Shagari years, and the need for new moral standards. Yet corruption will be hard to root out, as shown by the recent difficulties over a \$40m contract in Lagos for waste removal equipment (with World Bank funding).

The contract was about to be given to MAN of Holland, but the decision was suddenly overridden and Mercedes were substituted by the state government. The World Bank may now walk away from the whole deal.

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CSO: 3400/0276

FINANCE MINISTRY MUST APPROVE ALL NEW FOREIGN LOANS

Kaduna NEW NIGERIAN in English 30 Jul 87 pp 1, 3

[Text]

FEDERAL Government has directed that no new projects involving external borrowings should be started without the approval of the Ministry of Finance.

A circular from the Office of the Chief of General Staff, containing the new directive, has been sent to all federal ministries and parastatals, state governments and their agencies.

In approving such spendings, the Federal Ministry of Finance is required to strictly follow the current external borrowing guidelines of the Federal Government's Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP).

The circular, dated June 26, was consequent to the recent agreement between Nigeria and its creditors, especially the Paris Club to reschedule the country's eligible external debts owed to the export credit agencies.

Conditions attached to the rescheduling stipulated that the credit cover would apply only to carefully selected priority projects that contribute directly to our economic recovery as determined by the Federal Government, including co-financing by the World Bank and other appropriate institutions.

Nigeria's debt-servicing difficulties had been attributed partly to the unproductive use of some past borrowing, the circular explained.

The office of the Chief of General Staff, therefore, advised both federal and state agencies to carefully re-order their project priorities and advise the Ministry of Finance on viable on-going projects requiring additional external loans, consistent with the SAP.

The circular also requested

that approvals granted foreign borrowing by the Finance Ministry, especially in the critical years between 1984 and 1986 should be carefully reviewed since previously approved projects for external finance could not now be accommodated in the utilisation of the new cover facilities.

It advised all federal and state agencies to concentrate on completion of viable on-going projects rather than embark on new ones.

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CSO: 3400/994

FOREIGN THREATS TO NATIONAL SECURITY EXAMINED

Kaduna NEW NIGERIAN in English 29 Jul 87 p 1

[Editorial: "Danger Signals"]

[Text]

A REPORT on the "State Strategy '87" conference in New York at which a strategic study of Nigeria featured did not get much media attention. This however should not suggest that the conference and its deliberations were unimportant. It is in fact a measure of its importance that Air-Vice Marshal George Osho represented us there.

What concerns us is the submission by Mr. Gregory Copley, President of the International Strategic Studies Association (ISSA) that Nigeria could face military threats from Chad, Cameroun, Libya and South Africa. Unfortunately, we do not have the details of Mr. Copley's submission to assist further understanding of his forecast. Still, there is some justification for his fears.

Chad for instance is already an arena for international intrigues and imperialist adventurism in the guise of beating back Soviet-Libyan incursions. While it is a bit far-fetched to say Chadian successes over Libyan forces could goad them into

trying to take on Nigeria, there have been equally alarming cross-border skirmishes in the past to make Chad a potential threat to Nigeria. Cameroun is in a similar position. It is in fact upgrading its Air Force with French and Israeli assistance. Libya too could pose a danger particularly on the ideological front where it has a record of infiltration.

The inclusion of South Africa on the list of threats to our nation is rather obvious. The racists see Nigeria, the biggest and strongest black nation on earth as the greatest stumbling block to their supremacist and hemispheric delusions. The danger becomes even clearer when seen in the light of strategic co-operation between Israel and South Africa and between South Africa, America and Saudi Arabia in propping up the UNITA bandits in Angola, as well as destabilising independent black Africa, the so-called front-line states. Equatorial Guinea is mysteriously left out although its virtual surrender to South African military interests and its

location on Nigeria's vulnerable underbelly are well-known.

The foregoing leads one to question the sincerity of Copley's submission and suggests that he is most probably a mere weapon salesman. Nevertheless, that Nigeria faces potential dangers from its neighbours needs no argument. What is not sufficiently appreciated is that potential dangers become real risks through foreign meddling such as the superpowers' current efforts to swell the ranks of their African clients. We are therefore not helping ourselves if we continue to sit on the fence in the face of danger signals. For a start, our not having diplomatic relations with Israel, for example, while nurturing substantial commercial and unofficial dealings is hypocritical and likely to lull us into a false sense of security. Our size and standing in Africa is such that will attract the attention of friends and foes. We must be wary of our enemies and be alert to their threats.

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CSO: 3400/994

GENERAL URGES FORMATION OF WEST AFRICAN HIGH COMMAND

Kaduna NEW NIGERIAN in English 10 Jul 87 p 16

[Text]

COMMANDANT of the Nigerian Army School of Infantry (NASI) Jaji, Major-General Sani Sami, has called for the establishment of a West African High Command.

He said, for some time now, sentiment had been expressed towards the formation of a military structure for the continent of Africa but that the desirability of such measure had never been doubted especially in view of the challenges posed by racist South Africa to sovereign African states.

Major-General Sani Sami said in his contribution to the army magazine "SOJA" that the issue of a military superstructure, involving entire independent African states would be better approached by encouraging regional military groupings for a start.

He said a few years ago, West African states agreed to operate a common market such as ECOWAS, stressing that the possibility of neo-colonialists destroying ECOWAS by even military option made it imperative for West African states to forge a high command in the sub-region. "I need to stress here that in our contemporary world, military and economic power complement each other."

Major-General Sami explained that recent trends like proposals for political merger between some states in the sub-region pointed to the feasibility of this body, adding that the merger between Ghana and Burkina Faso, Senegal and Gambia showed that West African states were willing to co-operate beyond the present level of economic co-operation.

Military alliance, he said, would bring about military union in the sub-region and minimise incidence of some West African governments seeking military assistance from their former colonial masters in the face of threats of overthrow as it happened in Togo, recently.

Major-General Sami, however, admitted that such command would entail huge financial investment in armament build-up. "and given the abject poverty that is afflicting the bulk of West African states, one wonders whether enough funds could be raised to launch and sustain the command."

He also pointed out problems in the choice of common language within the command, saying that French or English speaking African countries might not like to drop their languages in favour of another.

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CSO: 3400/994

MINISTER WARNS UNIONS AGAINST VIOLATIONS OF LABOR LAWS

Kaduna NEW NIGERIAN in English 18 Jul 87 pp 1, 3

[Article by Victor Attai]

[Text]

FEDERAL Government would not tolerate any breach of the labour laws nor should its human rights posture be seen as a weakness, Minister of Employment, Labour and Productivity, Major General Ike Nwachukwu, has warned.

Major-General Nwachukwu, who issued the warning in Lagos yesterday while addressing representatives of 42 industrial unions and the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC), said no responsible government would allow a section of the society to destroy the rest.

The minister said for any group or persons to thwart government efforts in revamping the economy would amount to economic sabotage and government would deal decisively with any such group or persons.

He reminded the labour unions that his ministry had made it clear that the issuance of ultimatums had no place in dispute settlement procedure and could not be regarded as a substitute for the declaration of trade disputes.

General Nwachukwu said dialogue must be encouraged in labour matters, but where it failed, either the employer or the trade union should feel free to declare a trade dispute.

The minister said the ministry maintained an open door policy that both unions and employers were always welcome to discuss any concrete proposals on issues affecting both parties.

He stressed that "we cannot as Nigerians allow ourselves to be destroyed or allow any section of the whole to bring destruction upon us because that section cares only for itself," adding that "we are one indivisible whole and the pain in one sector will affect the other."

General Nwachukwu assured the labour leaders that the President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, Major-General Ibrahim Babangida and the government were aware that the people were going through hard times, and that all grades of workers were sacrificing a great deal during this difficult period so that Nigeria would survive and the people happier in the end.

The minister said Mr. President and his government were appreciative of the sacrifice being made by all our people, adding that government was seriously considering certain additional measures that would recompense workers' sacrifice and bring succour to all, particularly, the low income earners.

Responding, the NLC president, Malam Chiroma Commended the Federal Government for its concern for the plight of workers but wanted the government to involve the congress in the preparation of the package announced by the labour minister.

According to the NLC leader, there was no need for government to prepare the additional

measures in secrecy since the workers were the best group to consult on the issue.

Alhaji Chiroma called for a law that would restrain companies that make huge profits from retrenching their staff.

The minister promised to look into all the issues raised by the NLC leader.

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CSO: 3400/994

KADUNA NLC COUNCIL CRITICIZES GOVERNMENT APPROACHES

Kaduna NEW NIGERIAN in English 11 Jul 87 p 9

[Article by Sani Haruna]

[Text]

NIGERIA Labour Congress, NLC, Kaduna State council, has called for the scrapping of both Second-tier Foreign Exchange Market (SFEM) and Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP), and suspension of internal and external debt payments pending verification of the true and actual amount the country owed.

The council also called for scrapping of the Prices Productivity and Incomes Board (PPIB) an immediate reversal of the privatisation process; a starter that would lead to nationalisation of all multinational corporations; and a reversal of subsidy withdrawal on petroleum products and other social services.

Addressing the 18 Plenary Session of the national executive council meeting of the Civil Service Technical Workers Union (CSTWU) in Kaduna State, Chairman of the NLC, Comrade Nathaniel Auta said the shifting of the handing over date to a democratic government from 1990 — 1992 was nothing but a prolongation of military rule.

He said the extension has serious implications for the citizens with respect to our right to choose our leaders and to participate in the administration of our country.

He said the rejection of the socialist ideology by the Armed Forces Ruling Council (AFRC) showed that the military ruling class was opposed to the interest

of the working class and the common people of this country.

Mr. Auta said the essence of military rule in the country was to protect the interest of the wealthy politicians and foreign imperialist companies and institutions.

He said during the political debate the Federal Military Government asked the Political Bureau to find out an appropriate ideology for the country.

He said the NLC, the intellectuals in ASUU, the students, women organisations and peasant associations demanded for the socialism.

He said the Political Bureau faithfully reported its findings that the majority of Nigerians want socialism but the military ruling class closed their eyes and rejected the recommendation.

Mr. Auta said that most of the claims made by officialism and members of the ruling class for SFEM and SAP as a whole have not in reality come to nothing principally because the programmes were ill conceived and that the country has a ruling class which is subservient to foreign capital.

He said instead of reducing dependence on the oil sector and on imports, SFEM has only succeeded in entrenching the Nigerian economy much more firmly in the global capitalist system.

The NLC chairman said a true market situation for determining the current value of the Naira did not exist.

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CSO: 3400/994

CENTRAL BANK REPORT ASSESSES EFFECT OF ADJUSTMENT PROGRAM

Kaduna NEW NIGERIAN in English 21 Jul 87 p 16

[Article by Sani Haruna]

[Text]

CENTRAL Bank of Nigeria (CBN) has said the Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP) was meant to alter and restructure the production and consumption patterns of the economy as well as eliminate price distortions and heavy dependence on the export of crude oil and imports of consumer and producer goods.

A Central Bank of Nigeria annual report and statement of accounts for the year 1986 said developments in our economy in 1986 indicated that some of the policy measures were yet to make a decisive impact on output and employment.

The report said real output measured by the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at 1977/78 factor, cost was estimated to have declined by 3.3 per cent in contrast to the 1.2 per cent in 1985. It said the decline which was moderated by the rise in agricultural output was due to the lull in manufacturing, crude petroleum and wholesale and retail trade activities.

The index of industrial production according to the report declined by 3.4 per cent in contrast to the 15.0 per cent increase in 1985, adding that the decline reflected the slow down in mining

and manufacturing activities.

It said in manufacturing, output which rose by 19.8 per cent in 1985 declined by 4.5 per cent as most manufacturers contended with the problems of rising production costs, short supply of necessary inputs and the slack in demand.

The report said in the mining sector, the index of mineral output declined by 2.5 per cent in contrast to the increase of 7.6 per cent in the preceding year, adding that in the construction sector, the weak financial situation continued to depress activities.

It said the rate of price increase measured by the change in the composite consumer price index fell slightly from 5.5 per cent in 1985 to 5.4 in 1986 due partly to increased production of food and the austere economic constrained consumer spending.

In the external sector, the report said the balance of payment recorded a surplus of 1,946.3 million Naira compared with the surplus of 561.1 million Naira in the previous year. It said the country's total official external reserves rose nominally from 1,657.9 million Naira in 1985 to 3,604.2 million Naira.

Under the Agricultural Credit Guarantee Scheme, the report said the number of commercial and merchant banks loans guaranteed by CBN during the year increased by 55.9 per cent while the value of such loans rose by 54.6 per cent to 68.4 million Naira in 1986.

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CSO: 3400/994

FOOD PRICES RISE, OTHERS REMAIN STABLE

Kaduna NEW NIGERIAN in English 11 Jul 87 p 13

[Text]

PRICES of major food items rose appreciably in the second quarter of this year while those of other essential commodities such as soaps, detergents and beverages remained relatively stable, an investigation by the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) has shown.

In contrast to the first quarter (Jan.—March) when foodstuffs such as Yam, Garri, Beans and Tomatoes were in ample supply, stocks have run low with the progress of the planting season exerting and upward pressure on prices.

Garri which sold at eight cups for ₦1 in Port Harcourt during the first quarter now sells at 4 cups for ₦1. The situation is even worse in Bonny in the riverine area of the state.

Similar increases were reported from Kano where a tin of Garri which used to sell for ₦35 now costs ₦50 and a measured is now sold for ₦3 instead of the previous ₦2. The price of Garri fell in Lagos where the commodity now

sells at most part for ₦13 a kerosine tin instead of the previous ₦28.

The sharpest price increase for this commodity was however recorded in Ogoja in the Cross River where a basin of garri which previously cost ₦14.50 now sells for ₦42.

Prices of yam tubers have similarly gone up by between 100 and 150 per cent across the country. In Enugu, a tuber of yam that used to sell for ₦3 now costs ₦6 while in Ogoja a tuber has shot up from ₦2 to ₦5. Similar price increases were reported from Benin, Abuja, Bauchi and Owerri.

The Prices of Fresh tomatoes rose sharply all over the country largely because the crop is out of season but those of canned tomatoes have only increased marginally.

In Kano, a basketful of tomatoes which used to cost ₦2.50 now sells from ₦10 and farmers attributed the situation to the rains which adversely affected the crop normally grown under irrigation. In Ibadan, Benin,

Enugu, Bauchi and Port Harcourt, tomatoes prices rose by between 100 and 150 per cent.

Modest increases were recorded in prices of other consumable such as vegetable oil and milk.

Beef prices have also gone up steeply across the country. In Lagos a kilogramme of beef which used to cost ₦7.50 now sells for ₦9.50 while in Kano cattle and ram prices have increased by between 50 and 100 per cent affecting the retail price per kilogramme of these items.

However, the prices of soaps, detergents and beverages have remained largely stable and in a few instances have actually dropped marginally. Common toilet soaps such as Lux, Joy, have remained stable at between 80k and ₦1 each across the country while medium size detergents such as Omo and Elephant sell for between ₦1.80 and ₦2 a packet. The largest sizes of these brands which previously sold for ₦10 or above now costs ₦8.50k. NAN.

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CSO: 3400/994

NIGERIA AIRWAYS SHOWING DROP IN PASSENGER TRAFFIC

Lagos BUSINESS TIMES in English 13 Jul 87 pp 1, 21

[Article by Roseline Umesì]

[Text]

NIGERIA Airways has restricted its operation to a few selected international routes which are viable.

These routes are Nigeria/United Kingdom; Nigeria/USA, Nigeria/Saudi Arabia, Nigeria/West Coast and a few countries in East Africa.

According to the statistics supplied by the logistic department of the Airways, despite the rationalisation in its operations on its international routes, its market share of passenger traffic on Nigeria/UK/Nigeria route declined from 54.8 per cent in 1985 to 38.0 per cent.

Out of 103,352 passengers carried on this route Nigeria Airways carried 39,274 or 38.0 per cent of the total while the only competitor, British Caledonia, carried 64,078 passengers or 62.0 per cent.

On the Nigeria/USA/Nigeria route, WT's passenger traffic share declined from 59.9 per cent in 1985 to 54.1 per cent in 1986 despite that more passengers were lifted on

this route in 1986 when compared with 31,991 in 1985.

Out of 35,314 passengers carried on this route in 1986 Nigeria Airways lifted 19,104 passengers or 54.1 per cent, while the remaining 48.9 per cent was carried by Pan Am.

Nigeria Airways passenger traffic share on the Nigeria/Saudi Arabia Nigeria route also declined in 1986. For example, WT's market share on this route declined from 55.3 per cent in 1985 to 51.4 per cent in 1986 despite that this route generated more traffic in 1986 when compared with 1985 when the passenger traffic on that route was 15,733.

Out of a total of 29,348 passengers carried on this route in 1986, Nigeria Airways carried 15,084 passengers or 51.4 per cent of the total, while the Saudi Arabia airline carried 48.6 per cent or 14,264 of the total.

On the Nigeria/West Coast/Nigeria, WT's share of passenger traffic also dropped a bit from 57.3 per cent in 1985 to 56.9 per cent in 1986. Out of total of 145,374 passengers on this route, Nigeria Airways carried 81,409 passengers

or 56.9 per cent.

Nigeria Airways stopped operating on most of the European routes because the routes were not viable, according to the officials. The figures of passengers carried on Nigeria/Italy/Nigeria route, which Nigeria Airways still operates, is said to be very small.

On the domestic routes, the Airways did not achieve passenger growth in 1986. It carried 1.8 million passengers in 1985 which declined to 1.6 million passengers in 1986. On the whole, total passengers carried both on international and domestic route declined from 2.1 million passengers in 1985 to 1.9 million passengers in 1986.

Generally, the passenger uplift in 1986 showed a decline of about six per cent over 1985. And this is attributed to many factors. These included the 40 per cent increase on domestic routes, shortage of aircraft capacity and the introduction of SFEM, the analysis further revealed.

It is projected that 1987 will witness more decline in the passenger traffic lifted by the Airways. For example, according to the

Statistics on the first quarter of 1987 on the domestic route, passengers carried in 1986 first quarter declined from 431,177 passengers to 334,604 in the first quarter of 1987.

It is also projected that the international route will witness a decline considering the increase in the fare on the international routes towards the end of 1986, the high cost of foreign exchange and the introduction of visa for travellers to UK in February 1987.

Lack of planes was said to be affecting passenger traffic both domestically and internationally. At the moment, the Airways has 17 planes, made up of one Boeing 747; four airbus planes; one DC 10 plane; eight Boeing 737 planes and three 707 of which two are used for cargoes. But in 1985 the Airways had 29 planes including the planes on lease.

INCREASED REVENUE

Nigeria Airways continued to witness increased revenue in the last six years — 1981-1986 — but the only problem is that expenses increased more than

the revenue.

Available figures showed that the Airways earned N265.4 million in 1985 which increased to the estimated figure of N326.8 million in 1986. At the same time expenses increased in the two years being compared.

Although the Airways earned N265.4 million in 1985 it spent N298 million bringing a deficit of N32.6 million. And in 1986 it earned an estimated revenue of N326.8 million, while it spent an estimated amount of N428.3 million which brought an estimated deficit of N101.5 million.

The estimated expenditure in 1986 showed an increase of 44 per cent when compared to that of 1985.

According to the explanation, this was attributed to the removal of fuel subsidies in 1986. Also the introduction of the second-tier Foreign Exchange Market (SFEM) which further compounded the airline's expenditure, was also mentioned as one of the reasons.

Another important aspect of the expenses is that from 1981 to 1985 the percentage of fuel cost to the total operating costs averaged 18 per cent. And the removal of the subsidies in 1986 shot up the percentage of fuel cost to the total operation cost to 40 per cent.

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CSO: 3400/994

EXPERTS SUGGEST NEW TARIFF RATES RANGE

Lagos BUSINESS TIMES in English 13 Jul 87 p 24

[Article by Dapo Ajibola]

[Text]

TARIFFS experts, for the benefits of the Federal Government currently engaged in the process of a comprehensive review of the customs and excise tariffs structure expected toward the end of this year, have recommended new range of tariff rates for an appropriate tariff structure which would be an improvement on the current interim one.

The suggestions were contained in a study report commissioned by the Lagos Chamber of Commerce and Industry to assist the government in arriving at an effective and efficient tariff structure.

The experts pointed out that trade and related industrial development policies should be designed together as opposed to the exclusive focus of the current review exercise on customs tariff and excise taxes which is subject to serious limitations.

In the first phase of the study just released, the experts proposed a range of tariff rates under four industrial groups. These are raw materials, intermediate inputs, final capital goods and final consumer goods.

For raw materials, the experts recommended a range of 0-30 per cent as against the present 10-80 per cent of the interim tariff structure.

Reason given is that the lower limit of 10 per cent does not recognise the point that critical industrial raw materials which Nigeria does not have any meaningful potential producing in the foreseeable future need not attract any customs duty. To impose any tariff on such imports will be to unnecessarily penalize local producers.

The upper limit of 80 per cent, though based on the need to protect agricultural raw materials from foreign competition, is unnecessarily costly to offer protection where effective local capacity is still being developed.

The experts, while recognising the need for protection, suggest a clear distinction between current availability in adequate quantities and potential availability before proposing upper limit.

Under the intermediate inputs, rates in ranges of 5-25 per cent is recommended as against the 5-30 per cent of the interim tariff structure.

For final capital goods, the recommendation is 5-40 per cent as against 5-20 per cent of the interim tariff.

This recommendation offers a higher rate of nominal protection of 40 per cent to final capital goods than the interim tariff of 20

per cent because the currently available domestic capacity for producing this class of goods needed to be given adequate support.

The final consumer goods group is sub-divided into four basic sectors. These are durable basic, durable non-basic, non-durable basic and non-durable non-basic.

While revenue generating tariffs are imposed on all the sub-sectors luxury tariffs are applied to the non-basic elements and in the case of basic goods for which no current or potential local capacity exists no additional protection tariffs is required.

The experts identified some weaknesses in the interim tariff structure with respect to final consumer goods. These concern the non separation of durable and non-durable consumer goods. Higher rates are imposed on durable than non-durable because of the differences in life span.

INTERIM AND PROPOSED RANGE OF TARIFF RATES

Industrial Group	Interim %	Proposed %
Raw Materials	10-80	0-30
Intermediate Inputs	5-30	5-35
Final Capital Goods	5-20	5-40
Final Consumer Goods:		
— Durable Basic	20-30	10-60
— Durable Non-basic	30-80	60-100
— Non-durable basic	20-30	10-40
— Non-durable non-basic	100-200	80-120

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CSO: 3400/994

PORT HARCOURT REFINERY TO START EXPORTING IN 1988

Kaduna NEW NIGERIAN in English 20 Jul 87 p 1

[Text]

NIGERIA will start exporting refined petroleum products next year when the 535 million Naira fourth Port Harcourt Refinery with a capacity of 150,000 barrels per day is completed.

The Minister of Petroleum Resources, Alhaji Rilwanu Lukman, announced this in Port Harcourt on Saturday after he completed a nine-day visit to the refinery, the oil storage tank that caught fire about a week ago and the Port Harcourt University Teaching Hospital to see the only surviving victim of the incident which had so far claimed five lives.

Alhaji Rilwanu said he was impressed with the work done so far at the refinery and that the completion of the project

would also put an end to the importation of petrol.

Answering a question, the minister said the fire at the oil refinery was not a sabotage, and assured that victims of the incident would be adequately compensated according to the rules of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC).

Earlier, the new refinery's project manager, Mr. Alex Ogedegbe, had said actual work on the project started in November 1984 and that so far 62.7 per cent of work had been completed.

He said work on the refinery, expected to be commissioned in November 1988, was already one month ahead of schedule.

Mr. Ogedegbe said there were about 2,683 Nigerians and 635 expatriates working on the project, with this number increasing to 3,000 and 800 respectively at peak time.

The current combined daily capacity of the three operating refineries is put at about 260,000 barrels of crude while the nation's daily domestic fuel consumption is 290,000 barrels.

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CSO: 3400/994

LAGOS GOVERNOR WARNS OF FOREST RESOURCES DEPLETION

Kaduna NEW NIGERIAN in English 20 Jul 87 p 17

[Text]

GOVERNOR of Lagos State, Navy Captain Mike Akhigbe said Wednesday that in view of the current rate of wood utilization, Nigerian forest resources might be completely utilized before the year 2000 AD.

This, he said, was because the country had only 10 per cent forest land and 90 per cent Savanna, while exploitable natural forest was now less than 2 per cent of our total land areas.

The governor who was speaking while performing the state chapter of the seventh national tree planting campaign, said the requirements for wood by the society had risen beyond the capacity of the government both in terms of finance and professional manpower.

For this Reason, he stressed the need for a pragmatic approach towards tree planting in general, adding that the approach adopted at the national level was the launching of a tree planting campaign programme.

He said that the state government had also placed emphasis on the implementation of the programme through campaigns and mass mobilisation and that schools

management board, local governments and armed forces as well as voluntary organisations in the state were being involved.

Navy Captain Akhigbe said the task force set up last year to effect and co-ordinate the tree planting programme "experienced long dry spell to the extent that it could only record about 30 per cent success, adding that the task force was unable to plant 42,000 seedlings.

He stressed the need to educate the generality of our people about the consequences of non conservation of our natural but renewable resources, pointing out that at the moment the country was facing serious ecological problems in terms of land hunger and decrease in wild life population.

The governor said that in line with the national policy on the preservation of wild life the state ministry of agriculture and co-operatives had been directed to create game reserves where animals could exist in their natural environment.

He also said that a botanical and zoological garden was being established at the Ologe Lagoon forest reserve.

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CSO: 3400/994

CRITICISM OF NIGER RIVER BASIN AUTHORITY CALLED PREMATURE

Kaduna NEW NIGERIAN in English 21 Jul 87 p 9

[Article by Mever Ayilla]

[Text]

THE Chairman of the Management Board of the Niger River Basin Development Authority (NRDBA), Professor Suleiman Adeyemi, has said criticisms of non-performance levelled against River Basin Authorities was premature.

The defence contained in a brief he read when he led a delegation of the board on a courtesy call on Niger State Governor, Lt-Colonel Garba Ali Mohammed, last Friday noted that the basins established between 1976 and 1977 had a gestation period of between five to ten years.

He said against this background it was premature to have passed judgment on the overall performance of the authorities which are barely ten years old.

Professor Adeyemi also blamed inconsistent policies on the lack of impact by the authorities so far saying the river basins were set up with the primary aim of developing surface and underground water resources for irrigation, domestic water supply, hydro power generation and navigation.

He said in the second republic however, emphasis was shifted to direct agricultural production. This led to major changes both

in the management structures and priorities.

Prof. Adeyemi added that change in policy forced the authorities to become involved in agricultural production where as the initial policy envisaged the development of water resources while individual and group farmers were leased irrigated land to engage in production.

The chairman said other problems that were responsible for the lack of impact were the politicisation of the programme, shortage of manpower in quality and quantity in areas like engineering.

He also said shortage of funds, lack of basic planning data and absence of a co-ordinated approach in development have thwarted the progress of the authorities.

Absence of a well defined legislation, unjustified high cost of projects and compensation claims constitute other impediments, he added.

He said the federal government has handed over all National Borehole Projects over to the River Basin Authorities adding that the NRBDA has inherited 97 boreholes projects in its areas of coverage which include Niger, Kwara and parts of Kaduna state as well as Abuja.

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CSO: 3400/994

CHAD BASIN AUTHORITY CLOSE TO COLLAPSE

Kaduna NEW NIGERIAN in English 22 Jul 87 pp 1, 3

[Article by Abdullahi Idris]

[Text]

THE Chad Basin and Rural Development Authority (CBRDA), Nigeria's largest agricultural project set up in 1973 to produce among others, 20 per cent of the nation's rice needs and large quality wheat for the next 40 years, may fold up.

The authority by now is expected to have put 67,000 hectares under cultivation in New Marte and 20,000 hectares in Baga, but so far the total land area under cultivation is less than 3,000 hectares.

New Nigerian investigation revealed that eight years after the project took off, about 80 per cent of its equipment had either broken down or had been auctioned off.

It was learnt that majority of the vehicles and equipment were auctioned at give-away prices while still allegedly serviceable.

The following facts emerged in the course of the *New Nigerian* investigation in New Marte and Maiduguri.

*Seven tipper lorries were sold for about 5,000 Naira each. The authority now engages four of them on hire basis for its project

at Logomane at 30 Naira per trip and each lorry makes about 45 trips per day over a distance of not more 100 metres.

*Less than 30 of the authority's tractors are now functional out of over 100. Many have been auctioned at 150 to 200 Naira and mostly bought by management staff, their relations or friends.

*Of the 15 Komatsu crawlers in good working conditions in 1985, only one is functional now. They have 50 years life span.

*Four of the eight caterpillar crawlers available since 1985 have been grounded and only 11 of the 32 combine harvesters available in 1983 are operational now.

*One of the authority's lorries which conveyed labourers to farms was met on its way back and the driver was shown receipts that it had been sold and the buyer took over possession there and then.

*Seven brand new scrapper tyres in the authority's store in Baga which sell for 20,000 Naira each in the market were sold to some people from Jos recently for about 5,000 Naira each.

A number of senior staff of the authority who felt these happenings had become intolerable had in a document titled: "The deplorable condition in the CDRDA," urged the general manager to act decisively in the matter.

They had also forwarded copies of the document to the new board of directors who visited New Marte after their maiden meeting in Maiduguri last week.

Some aspects highlighted in the document are that of the 14 scrap-pers, 12 are not working; nine out of 13 heavy bulldozers are grounded; five out of seven light bulldozers are not working; of the eight pay-loaders, six are not working and that a number of other equipment like rollers, dredgers, amphidredgers, ditchers and forklift had broken down and could not be repaired because of lack of spare parts.

The staff said there are about 3,083 farmers under the South Chad irrigation project but that only 900 were involved in the last wheat season because of non-availability of agricultural inputs.

They said the farmers were ready to participate fully but that the technical competence of construction, operation and maintenance department determined agricultural output.

Owing to a number of shortcomings, the authority could not at present harvest 1,500 hectares of wheat planted this year.

The *New Nigerian* submitted a questionnaire to the General Manager of the authority, Alhaji Mai Jir Mohammed, for his comment on the various issues raised in the document on July 8, but the general manager asked the authority's public relations officer, Malam Aliyu to tell the *New Nigerian* that he had no comments to make.

He said the *New Nigerian* could publish whatever it wanted to.

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CSO: 3400/994

ABUJA DEVELOPMENT DELAYED BY UNCOMPLETED INFRASTRUCTURE

Kaduna NEW NIGERIAN in English 26 Jul 87 p 1

[Article by Emman Udoka]

[Text]

INSPITE of the invitation of the private sector to the development of the new Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, plots that private investors should develop are limited by non-availability of basic infrastructure.

The *Sunday new Nigerian* learnt in Abuja during the week that basic amenities like drains, roads, water, telephone and electricity distribution lines are yet to be provided in many parts of the city.

As a result, the Minister of the Federal Capital Territory, Air Commodore Hamza Abdullahi, has decided to stop issuance of certificates of occupancy for development of plots in the territory until the basic amenities are provided.

Announcing this when board members of Savannah Bank of Nigeria Ltd called on him in Abuja on Wednesday, Air Commodore Hamza urged banks to support other Nigerians who will need money to develop or establish business in Abuja.

He urged government to invest more in the development of housing in the city.

He told the Chairman of the bank, Chief Stephen O. Lawani, that his ministry was

going to step up industrial development in Abuja because its rapid growth now needs industrial backing for provision of essential goods and services.

Air Commodore Abdullahi said his ministry would also develop satellite towns around Abuja to save the city from being overcrowded by people from its surroundings searching for work.

Chief Lawani commended the minister for encouraging private sector participation in the development of the city and assured him of Savannah bank's support.

Sunday New Nigerian investigations showed that because of inadequate housing, nobody can walk into Abuja now and rent a room or establish a business.

The *SNN* gathered that houses are available only for government workers in the city, while private individuals and private sector workers have to stay in hotels or live in Suleja and shanty towns around the city.

It was however learnt that contract for completion of about 3,000 houses has been awarded and that work on them is at advanced stage.

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CSO: 3400/994

KADUNA WORKING TO PROMOTE COTTON PRODUCTION

1986 Profit

Kaduna NEW NIGERIAN in English 29 Jul 87 p 16

[Article by Sani Babadoko]

[Text]

KADUNA State realised 4.8 million Naira as profit from sale of cotton it bought from farmers last year.

Alhaji Muhammadu Namadi Sambo, Commissioner for Agriculture who disclosed this, said the state, through the Farmers Supply Company (FASCOM), purchased cotton worth 15 million Naira last year. He said FASCOM also ginned these and sold to the textile industries in the state.

He told the *New Nigerian* on Monday that it was out of the profit it made from the sales that it was able to subsidize fertilizers, pesticides and services it was rendering farmers this cropping season.

He said unlike other states Kaduna was able to provide up to 50 per cent subsidy on all inputs. He said inputs that sold for up to 30 Naira in other states as a

result of SFEM sold at 15 Naira in Kaduna state.

Alhaji Namadi said FASCOM has also set up a committee to resuscitate cotton production in the state and was sure more would be produced this year.

He also assured farmers that no cotton would be left unsold no matter the price fixed by the Cotton Marketers Association of Nigeria (COTMAN) because, "the farmers' welfare is our concern."

On last week's outbreak of armyworm attack in Kachia Local Government, he said the ministry dispatched extension staff with pesticides and sprayer immediately to contain the invasion, adding that farmers have also been advised to report such cases and seek assistance from the nearest service centre.

The commissioner however expressed concern over the unstable rains in Katsina, Mani and Daura areas, pointing out that this was likely to reduce output.

Increased Import Tariff Urged

Kaduna NEW NIGERIAN in English 29 Jul 87 p 16

[Article by Suwaid Isah]

[Text]

PRESIDENT of the Cotton Marketers Association of Nigeria (COTMAN), Alhaji Salmanu Abdullahi, has urged the federal government to raise tariff on imported cotton from 60 per cent to 100 per cent to boost local production.

Alhaji Abdullahi told the *New Nigerian* in Kaduna that the government should ensure that locally produced cotton was completely absorbed before importation was allowed.

He also urged the government to continue with the tariff imposed on cotton and yarn to discourage the indiscriminate importation of cotton by textile mills. He also said government should place a total ban on yarn imports.

Alhaji Abdullahi said the anticipated increase of 300,000 bales of cotton next season would be adequate for the textile mills cur-

rently operating at half capacity.

Financing the purchase of cotton was the major problem experienced last season, therefore, he said, the federal government should in its fiscal policy, introduce some liberalization in agricultural marketing financing so that funds would be available to marketers to start buying immediately the season starts. Without money, he said, this could hardly be possible.

Alhaji Abdullahi appealed to the government to ensure that all seeds taken over from members of the association were promptly paid for.

He further urged the government to ensure that whatever recommendation it received from the association regarding prices, it should not delay in announcing it in order to encourage farmers to produce more cotton.

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CSO: 3400/994

BRIEFS

FERTILIZER PLANT TEST RUN--The 700 million Naira plant of the National Fertilizer Company of Nigeria Limited (NAFCON), at Onne, near Port Harcourt, last week commenced a test run. Authoritative sources said that ammonia fertilizer produced on the first day of the trial run was found to be below international standard and had to be destroyed. The NEW NIGERIAN learnt that a ship was standing by at Onne Port to export the first consignment of the ammonia fertilizer to Europe. The plant is expected initially to produce about 1,000 tonnes of ammonia fertilizer daily. The other brands of fertilizer which the plant is to produce are, urea and NPK. The plant which has a production capacity of 700,000 tonnes per annum is handicapped in producing NPK fertilizer which is more suitable to Nigerian soil as a result of unavailability of raw materials, particularly phosphoric acid and potash. The Public Relations Manager of the company, Mr. Bobo Brown, confirmed that the plant had started a test-run, adding that the company was working to improve on the quality of its product before embarking on export. [By Andrew Isibor] [Text] [Kaduna NEW NIGERIAN in English 16 Jul 87 p 16] /13046

ABUJA-BENDEL RAIL LINE--The new Federal Capital, Abuja and Bendel State are to be linked by a rail-line under the Fifth Development Plan. Other towns to be linked by rail under the plan are Ajaokuta, Katsina and Otukpo. Announcing this to newsmen in Port Harcourt at the end of his two-day tour of Rivers State, Minister of Transport and Aviation, Major General Jerry Useni said the rail-lines which had been approved by the federal government would facilitate the transportation of raw materials and finished products to and from the various steel plants and rolling mills. On why the Nigeria Airways stopped using the Bauchi Airport, the minister explained that the airport was not meant for big aircraft because of its small size. He assured that when the airport was developed to meet international civil aviation standards, it would be patronised by the national carrier. General Useni restated that the federal government would not reimburse state government that established airports because "it is our belief that airports should be the duty of the federal government." He said the Nigeria Airways would however patronise such airports if they met the basic standards. The minister expressed satisfaction with the operations of establishments under his ministry in Rivers State but still called on the workers to enhance their productivity. General Useni told the workers at the Port Harcourt International Airport to be security conscious and report cases of drug trafficking. He called for proper training for fire fighters at the airport. [Text] [Kaduna NEW NIGERIAN in English 24 Jul 87 p 16] /13046

CHINESE MILITARY COOPERATION--Chairman of Chinese Commission of Science, Technology and Industry for National Defence, Lt-General Xio Guang has said China would be willing to assist in revitalizing the Defence Industries Corporation (DIC) if invited to do so. "The door is opened at all times," he said, adding that Nigeria and China belonged to the third world, sharing similar views on several international issues. He said China viewed military cooperation with Nigeria as a "priority". General Xio Guang said when he called on the GOC 1 Mechanized Division Kaduna, Major-General Peter Adomokai yesterday that his department which is responsible for producing all military equipment in China was eager to cultivate an "enduring relationship" with its counterpart in Nigeria. He said the future of countries and their role in international relations depended on their armed forces praising the high standards he had seen in the Nigerian military establishments. The GOC Major-General Adomokai said as a developing country Nigeria has a lot to learn from the Chinese military experience. He said Nigeria could learn from the records of "several wars fought and won" by the Chinese as well as from its technology which has made the Chinese "army self-reliant". General Adomokai said the Nigerian Army was striving to be self-reliant and hoped "we can benefit from the Chinese experience and become self-reliant." [By Sani Babadoko] [Text] [Kaduna NEW NIGERIAN in English 24 Jul 87 p 9] /13046

EDUCATION OF NOMADS--A multi-approach school system and resources development has been adopted by the Federal Government for the implementation of nomadic education, essentially meant for about six million Fulbe (Bororos) in the country. According to a blueprint on nomadic education, the multi-approach identified as appropriate for the implementation are the regular schools on-site schools, mobile teachers and schools, (portable classrooms) and adult education programmes. Others according to the blueprint are radio/distance education programmes, telecast and primary schools of alternative intake for Fulbes who camp near villages and streams. The blueprint on nomadic education launched in Yola Gongola State early this month, stated that "it has now become necessary to adopt a special or even an unconventional school arrangement for the nomadic child, if we must stop paying only lip service to the implementation of the National Policy on Education." It explained that, for the nomadic child, equal educational opportunity must include "provision of special formal living experiences that do not adversely disrupt his lifestyle." [By Abu A. Tapidi] [Text] [Kaduna NEW NIGERIAN in English 26 Jul 87 p 1] /13046

LNG PRODUCTION PROSPECTS--Nigeria may start delivering gas to Europe in 1992 from her 12 million Naira Liquified Natural Gas (LNG) plant at Finima near Bonny, Rivers State. Disclosing this to the NEW NIGERIAN at Finima the managing director of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC), Mr. G.A. Adams said this was however subject to commencement of construction works at the LNG plant site next year. He told th NEW NIGERIAN that the signing of buyers contracts had to be effected before construction work on the gas plant could begin, adding that a number of contracts have been made in this direction with prospective buyers in Europe. He said that the LNG plant would consume only five per cent of the nation's total gas reserve when it goes into production. The LNG project is a joint venture between the federal government which has 60 per cent shares: Shell (Gas) Nigeria Limited (20 per cent) ELF Nigeria Limited (10 per cent) and Nigeria Agip oil company 10 per cent). [By Andrew Isibo] [Excerpts] [Kaduna NEW NIGERIAN in English 30 Jul 87 p 11] /13046

KATSINA TELEVISION SERVICE--The long-awaited television service for the northern and southern parts of Kaduna State, which has so far cost the state government about six million Naira, has now reached Katsina with the commissioning of the Tsanni Transmission Station near Katsina by Governor Abubakar Umar yesterday. The governor said at the commissioning ceremony that the Kachia Transmission Station to serve the southern part of the state would be commissioned "in about two weeks time." Earlier, the acting Commissioner for Information and Home Affairs, Alhaji Ibrahim Makarfi had said the whole of the project was to have been completed by 1977, adding however, that "due to political, administrative, technical and other factors, the project was not completed as scheduled and dragged on for years." He said the contract for the job was signed on Saturday, April 26, 1975 between the then North Central State Ministry of Information and two British firms. The contract, signed with Pye TVT of Cambridge, according to him, was awarded at a cost of 1.06 million pounds and was for the supply, installation, testing and commissioning of two 10 kilowatt transmitters at Funtua and Tsanni. The commissioner said the other contract signed at a cost of 309,562 pounds sterling was for supply, installation, testing and commissioning of microwave links at Jaji, Zaria (Bomo), Funtua, Kankara, Dutsin-Ma and Katsina (Tsanni). He added that the state government was to provide structure at the various sites such as transmitting studios, staff quarters, fencing and access roads. [Excerpts]
[Kaduna NEW NIGERIAN in English 31 Jul 87 pp 1, 9] /13046

CSO: 3400/994

PREEMPTIVE STRIKES DEFENDED

Johannesburg ARMED FORCES in English Jul 87 p 4

[Article by D.G. Santos]

[Text]

Recent history has shown the Soviet strategy and that of their surrogate forces. Operating from neutral ground as 'untouchables' while maintaining the arsenals and manpower reservoirs for the conflicts which they project over the borders. Inevitably there has to be a boil-over.

What are the similarities of the strategic situations between Israel and South Africa. Geographically there is a great deal of difference. While Israel has to plan its defence within the parameters of a little leeway as far as areas for movement are concerned in theory South Africa has the large areas of open and mostly unpopulated space on which its forces could manoeuvre. However both countries have apparently adopted similar strategies and attack first.

Who is in the better geographical military situation? Israel who can activate its citizen army and in some cases transport them a few kilometres to the war zone of South Africa which has to send its troops after activation a thousand kilometers or more?

In both cases their ultimate rear border is the sea and the realistic agree that in both instances the two countries are faced with a war of survival.

While South Africa has been denounced time and again for making pre-emptive strikes against terrorist bases in neighbouring countries this has been the doctrine applied by Israel, even before it acquired statehood.

South Africa has struck against South West African Peoples Organisation (SWAPO) and African National Congress (ANC) bases in its neighbouring territories; as yet there has

been no pre-emptive strike against the massive weapon build-up that has been taking place in Sub-Saharan Africa. To see the situation in its true perspective it is necessary to understand the strategical reasons behind the United States pre-emptive strike against the Cuban build-up, in its sphere of influence, in Grenada. It can also be surmised that had the Cuban/Eastern Bloc involvement in Nicaragua taken place in the time of the Reagan administration instead of that of Carter a slightly different scenario would have been enacted. The recent United States pronouncements concerning the Iranian missile attacks on tankers in the Gulf appear to be very close to threatening pre-emptive strikes to protect international shipping and the West oil routes.

Is there an alternative?

South Africa's incursion into Angola in 1975 hardly falls into the category of a pre-emptive strike as at that stage the threat was minimal and it was before the Cubans entered the area. It also appears that in the United States that the left hand did not know just what the right hand had in mind. The US Chiefs of Staff at that time have since publicly denied any knowledge of any intended involvement in Angola. From private discussions with a highly placed Pentagon intelligence official there is reason to think that middle to low level officials in other US departments of state peddled a dud bill of goods to, too receptive, sources in South Africa. Whether this was to incite the Soviets into action in Sub-Saharan Africa will no doubt now be viewed in hindsight. Whatever the truth is, it set the stage for the existing conditions.

South Africa is facing, like Israel, a war of attrition, that is costing millions of Rand per week, if not per day. While little action takes place the costs involved in keeping a force in being is tremendous. Money that could be spent in other directions. A force that has to be maintained at sufficient strength to be able to meet the anticipated threat. This tactic alone, of forcing a neighbouring state to maintain a large defence apparatus due to the presence and build-up of your own forces, has been considered to justify pre-emptive action.

With the continual build-up of conventional weapons in Angola protected by the radar controlled missile shield that intrudes into South West African airspace there is little chance of South Africa being able to reduce its standing force.

Can these forces with MBTs (main battle tanks) anti-armour gunships and medium artillery be solely for use against UNITA?

Is there an alternative? If there is, does it lie in a pre-emptive strike?

Members of the Armoured Corps of the East German Democratic Republic on exercises in Europe. East Germans are now active in Angola and Mozambique as part of the Soviet Surrogate African Army.

/13046

CSO: 3400/0239

PRESTIGIOUS WESTERN CAPE UNIT DESCRIBED

Pretoria PARATUS in English Jul 87 pp 10-11

[Text]

REGIMENT Westelike Province is not only one of the most prestigious of the South African Defence Force units, but also one of the most individualistic. The officers carry walking sticks of assegai wood, the ranks wear shorts on ceremonial occasions, their Sam Brownes are black, their regimental song an old Dutch one, and they drink important toasts not in port, but in a fine brandy first bottled for the Regiment in 1936.

The Wingfield-based Regiment Westelike Provincie is a unit staffed mainly by members from the Western Cape, and it is a conventional mechanised infantry unit in the Citizen Force.

Regiment Westelike Provincie's emblem is the cone of the silver tree, contained in a wreath of silver tree leaves. Underneath appears the motto: *Non sibi sed patriae* – not for us, but for the Fatherland.

Regiment Westelike Provincie is indeed an achieving unit. In 1983 the Freedom of Cape Town was awarded to RWP, followed by the Freedom of Bellville in 1984. Also in 1984, RWP was awarded 71 Mot Brigade and 7 Division's Mobilisation trophies for its performance during exercise Thunder Chariot.

In 1985, the unit received Group 6's Certificate of Merit for its participation during Operation Poncho, an unrest control operation in the Eastern Cape.

In 1986, RWP was appointed the most prepared unit in 7 Division, which is known to be the best infantry division in Africa. Also in 1986, Northern Transvaal Command awarded its Certificate of Merit, for the first time to a unit as a whole, to RWP for its contribution during Operation Xenon, an unrest control operation in Northern Transvaal.

RWP is not all muscle and force however, but maintains a fine etiquette inherited from the past. RWP is one of the 23 traditional units in the South African Defence Force, and members wear the traditional uniforms with pride.

The origin of Regiment Westelike Provincie can be traced back to the creation of a number of small military units manned by volunteers on the Platteland around Cape Town during the 1800's. These units were consolidated into the Western Rifles of the Cape – the precursor of RWP.

On 1 April 1934, the RWP was established in its present form with its present name. The Regiment served in North Africa and Italy during the Second World War. The unit was renamed Regiment Onse Jan in 1951, then Regiment Boland in 1964 and finally RWP in 1974.

In 1947, the old Colour were awarded to RWP by King George VI who visited South Africa at that time. The Colour or insignia of the unit is the symbol of corporate life and unity of the Regiment. The Colour of RWP implies the same allegiance to an impersonal regimental spirit, but is now blended with more of a National Spirit.

The background of RWP's Colour is royal blue with a fringe in gold. Against this background, the unit emblem is depicted. The colours deviate from the normal rifle green of the infantry corp. This deviation is explained by the fact that the unit is a traditional unit and the royal blue is the primary unit colour.

Field Marshal J.C. Smuts was personally involved with the choice of royal blue as the traditional colour of the unit and as colour of the original Unit Colour. Field Marshal Smut was the only Colonel-in-Chief of the Regiment and retained this position up to the time of his death in 1950. The present Honorary Colonel of RWP is Col (Alderman) Koss van Zyl, a former Mayor of Cape Town.

AT a finger-lunch held at the Lady Ar
Barnard Hall at the Castle in Cap
Town recently, a handsome new Colour w
presented to the unit by Old Mutual. The u
has links with Old Mutual, not the least
which is that an ex-Officer Commanding
the unit, Brig G.C.G. Werdmuller, is also an
ex-Chairman of Old Mutual.

At a ceremony held on the Grand Parade
after the finger-lunch and attended by the
Minister of Defence, Gen Magnus Malan, the
Mayor of Cape Town, Alderman Leon Mark-
owitz, and Brig A.K. de Jager, Officer Com-
manding Western Province Command,
RWP presented their Colour Parade.

This consisted of two ceremonial compan-
ies in shorts carrying .303 Lee Enfields,
one company in brown nutria field dress and
a third in battle dress. The parade was fol-
lowed by the marching of RWP through the

streets of Cape Town to the strains of the
Cape Corps Band, with a company of Ratels
bringing up the rear.

THIS was also the final occasion at which
Cmdt G. Boshoff presided as Officer
Commanding of the Regiment, as the same
evening, at a dinner held at the Officers'
Mess in Wynberg, he handed over com-
mand to Maj Douw Holtzhausen, who was
awarded his commandant's 'pip' at the din-
ner.

The Freedom of Cape Town parade of
RWP was followed by a repeat performance
in Bellville several days later, when the Unit
once again exercised its right to march
through the streets of the city with bayonets
drawn and flags flying.

These several celebrations by RWP was
yet another facet of the South African De-
fence Force's 75th birthday celebrations.

/13046

CSO: 3400/0239

UNIQUE COLORED COMMANDO UNIT DESCRIBED

Pretoria PARATUS in English Jul 87 p 17

[Article by L Cpl S.B. Cohen]

[Text]

SKIEREILAND COMMANDO can't be such a bad place to be. Why else would the unit's recent training group be composed of no less than 40% volunteers, most of them Coloureds?

The group is unique in various aspects. These are the first Coloured volunteers doing riot control in the black townships, the unit has its first Coloured candidate officers among its strength, and furthermore, the 2IC of the Signals Section is a lady corporal.

PARATUS enjoyed a great brunch with Lt D.J. Naudé, the Acting Camp Commander, since promoted to captain, and his men ... interestingly enough, there is here a tradition of serving the CO's before the officers- ... whereafter PARATUS spoke to some of the people involved.

RSM J.E. Pearson gives some insight as to what makes this commando so special when he says: "I'm not concerned with the social frivolities - I believe in getting on and doing the job." The "job" involves vehicle patrols in the townships, road blocks in the entire Cape Peninsula and the protection of key national points, as well as several other tasks.

"We don't treat them as troops only, but also as people," says RSM J.E. Pearson of his men. There is a close camaraderie between the rank and the file.

43 year old Candidate Officer Desmond Norman says that he joined the SADF "because I enjoy discipline. Every person must do something for his country and that is why I want to get the training to do my job properly." CO Norman was sworn into the

SADF in 1965 and joined the commando in 1980, now serving as platoon sergeant.

CO Norman is married with six children, and of Lt (now Capt) Naudé he says: "Terrific - an outstanding man!" The RSM? "One of the best." What plans does he have for the future? "I want to get the highest rank possible," he says, "and thereby do something for South Africa."

24 year old L Cpl Antoinette Morgan, who has an entire tent to herself on the base, applied for Commando training once she had resigned from the Permanent Force. "Once you've been in uniform, well then, to get out of it . . ." she says wistfully. "I have a wish to fill my spare time positively and contributively."

Is it tough being the only rose on the thorn bush? "It's not such an adjustment," says L Cpl Morgan. "I don't see why more women aren't in the camp - we could definitely use them. For instance, when I'm not on duty, I can volunteer for patrols," she adds.

Cpl Julie Beauzick says: "I'm 50 not out, and I believe I'm the first Coloured Military Policeman in the history of this unit. I find that I am accepted in my position of rank, and if the health permits, I'm going to climb and prove myself - this is my country, I can't speak for any other, but I'm proud to be in the SADF."

"I am very happy to be in this unit," says Cpl Beauzick, who is married with nine children and eight grandchildren, "and so far in my duties of ensuring the camp's security there have only been a few minor incidents."

The prevailing atmosphere on the base is one of co-operation and contribution - of enthusiasm and of the special brotherhood that comes of sharing a cause.

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CSO: 3400/0239

TRAINING, ACHIEVEMENTS OF RSA NAVY DIVING SCHOOL DESCRIBED

Pretoria PARATUS in English Jul 87 pp 18-19

[Article by L Cpl G.D. Cohen]

[Text]

IF you are "fit to dive" when those around you: Are pleading colds and pinning faith on you. If you can clear your ears without a nose clip - mask flooded, and Eustachians full of "flu". If you can swim when all your limbs are aching, and not give up when reasons say you must or being nauseated, not giving way to retching even though convulsing - fit to bust. If you can control your lips from twitching, when diving deep and gas is neat O2 and refrain from symptoms as of drinking, when narcosis makes its evil pass at you. If you can slip your weights with gas exhausted, hold fast your breath and life-jacket inflate in time; not caring that your breathing bag is flooded, and your mouth is full of caustic soda lime.

IF you can hack your way through 6" Manilla wrapped bar taut around a monster screw, only to find that docking is necessary and was in any case six months overdue. If you can wield a hammer, hacksaw, chisel; with the same skill and ease the masters do. If you can weld, burn or use bolt-gun, to float a ship and save her cargo too. If you can keep your head in inky blackness, free swimming 'neath some monster vessel's hull, and return unaided to the daylight with nerves intact nor dented in the skull. If you can fill each underwater minute, with sixty seconds worth of diving; **YOURS IS THE SEA AND EVERYTHING THAT'S IN IT, AND - WHAT IS MORE - YOU'LL BE A DIVER'S SON.**

THE South African Navy Diving School in Simon's Town celebrates its 30th Anniversary in the same year that the SADF turns 75. From their humble beginnings, both the SADF and the Diving School have grown from strength to strength and are today leaders in their respective fields.

In 1941 the Diving Branch was started at the Louw-Halvors Dock in Cape Town and by mid-1942 a team of salvage divers were already operating in the Mediterranean on HMS Gamtoos.

By the end of the war, there were two teams of SA divers in action and one man, PO W.S.P. Lingenfelder, started a diving branch at the new SA Navy Base at Salisbury Island. Shortly thereafter, in September 1955, the first diving course was introduced and Navy personnel were trained in diving and salvage techniques.

The Simon's Town Agreement saw the official opening of the SAN Diving School on 1 July 1957. A year later, the main "chamber flat" became available followed by a 10 metre tank in 1965 which is still used for the testing of new equipment, training, demonstrations and for research purposes.

TODAY the Diving School has two tasks - Training and Operations. To be accepted on the Diver's Course, besides having a Matric exemption in both science and mathematics, candidates have to pass a swimming, psychological and divers' medical test.

The swim test involves various distances swum at differing depths. Chamber tests that simulate underwater pressure are also taken so as to ascertain the capabilities of the student.

The psychological tests undertaken encompass tests that answer the question of motivation and that all important word, VAS-BYT, that is vital for survival. Other tests of critical importance are a stress ECG and a full lung function analysis.

ON passing all three tests, the prospective diver will be admitted to a four-week Ship Divers' Course that will qualify him on air-scuba. Volunteers who pass this course can volunteer for the Part I Divers' Course that will qualify them to dive even deeper on nitrox mixtures. Once again a stringent physical is required before acceptance to the course. On completion of the

course, divers are then posted either to a Naval Diving Section for utilization along the coast of the Republic, or to the fleet for operational diving tasks at sea.

Another option open to qualified Part I Divers who have seen more than four years service, is the Divers' Part II Course that will stretch their depths even further. Further specialization can be done by doing the Part III Course that entails redoing the Part I Course and specialising in Supervision, Instruction and other tasks. This is the SADF's highest diving qualification on offer.

OPERATIONAL requirements of the trained diver are diverse and exciting.

The Diving School has twice been ~~honoured~~ **honoured** with the Navy's Sword of Peace for outstanding humanitarian work. The first occasion was for recovering a truck out of the Zambezi River. The second award was for the work done during the disastrous Laingsburg floods. They have also been called upon to remove an old German arms cache found in the Tsumeb Lake in SWA.

Over its illustrious 30 year history, the Diving School has produced training instructors and divers of such a high standard that they can always be relied on to complete the required task with the minimum of fuss.

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CSO: 3400/0239

MARNET GUARDS ORANGE FREE STATE

Pretoria PARATUS in English Jul 87 p 41

[Text]

AIRWAVES in the Orange Free State Command area are buzzing to the frequencies of a highly professional communications system called MARNET (Military Area Radio Network).

Costing R2m to install throughout the OFS, the radio network will revolutionize command and tactical radio facilities for Commando units. It will also provide an information gathering service and streamline civilian emergency communications.

MARNET was recently handed over by Brig C.R. Labuschagne, Director Signals, to Brig Reg Otto, Officer Commanding OFS Command. A function in Bloemfontein marked the culmination of efforts by Armscor and two public companies, Barcom and Messina Electronics.

While Barcom was contracted to manufacture the MARNET systems, Messina Electronics were engaged by Armscor to install the systems throughout the OFS Command area. They will also be responsible for maintaining the systems, providing a 24 hour service.

Simply stated, MARNET consists of a number of Area Coverage Stations scattered throughout the OFS. These stations are self-powering, making use of solar energy, existing supplies or when there are interruptions, standby generators. The stations transmit radio signals between Commandos and the various radio users, ie farmers, civilians, South African Police and medical services (see diagram).

The system represents a breakthrough in communications for the province as never before have farmers and civilians been able to link up with a network used by Military Commandos and the South African Police. It will also serve as an early warning system against terrorism and a secondary command and control system for the Commandos. The MARNET programme has brought the province in line with the Transvaal, North Western Cape, Natal, Eastern Cape and South

West Africa. Now more than 200 Area Coverage Stations exist in the country.

MARNET has its origins in the old Rhodesia where a system was developed to link the military up with civilians, especially farmers in isolated areas. In 1979, SWA implemented a similar radio network and since then the system has flourished in South Africa.

All of the components are manufactured domestically. Mr H.G. Hoff, General Manager for Armscor's Telecommunications wing, said at the launching ceremony that he knows of no other system, in the mould of MARNET, anywhere in the world.

"Despite sanctions against South Africa we have shown we have the know-how to manufacture these unique systems," he said. The problem facing the Army at the moment, said Mr Hoff, lay in convincing farmers to make the conversion to MARNET. Many farmers have bought expensive citizen band (CB) sets and are reluctant to "splash-out" to the tune of R1 800 - R4 000 on new MARNET radios.

Speaking about the problem, Lt Ross Yelland of Signals Unit, OFS Command, said Free State farmers along the border areas had established their own citizen band emergency system.

"However, eventually civilians might need a higher level of security than the straight forward CB network. This MARNET will provide efficiently," he said. The Defence Force actively promotes MARNET at farmers' co-operative gatherings, lecturing and showing MARNET in practice.

Civilians wishing to link up with the MARNET systems are required to fill out a prescribed application form and submit this to their local Commando. The process costs nothing and there are no on-going fees to the military. Civilians connecting up with MARNET are given a five-figure code. By activating a "panic button" in times of emergency, or by making a radio call, this code shows up on the local Command's control

terminal. The console retains the code number in its databank until such time as the emergency call is answered.

A major attribute of MARNET is the 24 hour manning service at Commando units.

MARNET is also able to make use of telephonic contact. For example, a person with a radio system in his/her vehicle, at the scene of a road smash, is able to call up the control centre which in turn connects the call to a doctor on a private telephone line. In this way the doctor is able to talk directly from the consulting room to the scene of the accident.

Maj Thinus Roos of OFS Command Signals Unit said many enquiries had been received from farmers and members of the public about MARNET. "We expect farmers and civilians to convert to MARNET slowly but surely," he said.

Maj Roos warned would-be MARNET radio-set buyers to purchase equipment with the SABS label of approval. "Sets of inferior quality are prone to costly breakages. There are also outlets which do not offer adequate back-up and maintenance," he said.

/13046

CSO: 3400/0239

PFP SAYS TRADE UNION POLITICIZATION JUSTIFIED

MB071008 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1004 GMT 7 Aug 87

[Text] House of Assembly, 7 Aug (SAPA)--As long as black workers had no representation in parliament, the use of trade unions for political purposes could be justified, Mr Peter Gastrow (PFP Durban Central) said today.

Speaking in the debate on the manpower vote, he wanted to know how people could achieve their political objectives if they had no avenue other than a trade union.

White workers had representatives in parliament, such as Mr Arrie Paulus (CP Carltonville).

"As long as the government refuses to give black workers input into parliament, they will be able to justify the use of trade unions for political purposes," he said.

He also asked the minister of manpower, Mr Pietie du Plessis, to comment on speculation that the department was working on legislation to "tackle the unions, to tighten up and control the unions."

Although he believed this speculation was incorrect, there had been "worrying signs" in the past year that the government wanted to clamp down on trade unions.

Both the unions and employers had warned of the consequences of a state clampdown, Mr Gastrow said.

While he spoke, a number of nationalist MP's interjected with cries of "Dakar, Dakar."

Mr Gastrow said he would state his view on the Dakar trip in full if given an opportunity to speak during the debate on the state president's vote.

Turning to the subject of trade unions for civil servants, he said the Labor Relations Act should be extended to the civil service.

"The minister must say whether he has accepted the inevitability of trade unions in the public service, whether they will have the right to strike and whether a new dispensation is being looked at.

"At the moment the state of affairs is unhealthy because the public servants are starting to look with envy at the results being achieved by private sector trade unions," he said.

Mr Gastrow also called on Mr du Plessis to use his influence with the state president, Mr P.W. Botha, to have May 1 declared "Labor Day".

"Irrespective of whether it is declared a public holiday there will be a massive stayaway on May 1 as it is internationally recognized as a day for workers."

Declaring it a public holiday would defuse tension, he said.

In conclusion he said unions should be careful not to involve themselves in stayaways which didn't directly involve workers in the workplace.

/12624

CSO: 3400/240

MANAGER PRAISES ROLE OF BLACK TRADE UNIONS

MB080635 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0623 GMT 7 Aug 87

[Text] Cape Town, 7 Aug (SAPA)--The emergent black trade unions should not be seen as a threat, South African Breweries [SAB] District manager for Soweto, Mr Sam Mosikili, told the Federated Hotel, Liquor and Catering Association of SA (FEDHASA) Western Cape yesterday.

Instead, he pointed out, by raising the status of black workers and improving their earnings the unions were increasing the size of the economic cake to the benefit of business.

Mr Mosikili was speaking at a lunch provided by the SAB after the FEDHASA Western Cape annual general meeting yesterday.

He said the unions had achieved remarkable speed of growth among black people in the face of government hostility.

As a result of their efforts the black worker had emerged from a state of servitude, in which he was at the mercy of his employer, to become a force to be reckoned with.

Mr Mosikili said he believed it was the higher expectations of black workers which had accelerated this growth.

The unions main aim was a living wage and "what they consider a living wage and what management consider it to be is different."

The unions also wanted better conditions and a say in how the business in which members were employed was run.

Mr Mosikili said these objectives were "not as frightening as they seem."

High wage demands were seen by black workers as a correction of past unfairness, when share-holders had the biggest "share of the cake."

Higher wages would mean more disposable income for black workers which they would spend for the benefit of business including the hotels, restaurants and bottle stores.

The workers wanted 40-hour weeks, a ban on overtime and longer leave. All this meant more free time which would be to the benefit of the hotel and liquor industries.

The unions demand for more say in how the business was run fitted in with progressive thinking about worker participation which eradicated thinking on the lines of "them" and "us" and led to increased productivity.

Redistribution of power was also already happening because now employers had to negotiate instead of just giving orders.

FEDHASA Western Cape chairman, Mr Brian Bowman, said the best future for SA lay in trying to understand what the other side was saying.

"If we do this, I believe there is a place for us all in South Africa," he said.

/12624

CSO: 3400/240

VENDA CONTINUES SECURITY CRACKDOWN WITH 9 DETENTIONS

MB111629 Johannesburg SOWETAN in English 11 Aug 87 p 3

[By Mathatha Tsedu]

[Text] At least nine people are said to have been detained in Venda over the past five days -- bringing to almost 20 the number of people presently held under security legislation in the homeland.

Only two were identified yesterday. They are Mr Charles Mbangiseni Tshitangano of Makwerela township and Mr Frederich Thinamano Dau Vhufuli. They were detained last Wednesday and are being held under Section 29 of the Maintenance of Law and Order Act, according to a police spokesperson.

The seven others have not been identified but the detainees were said to be from Tshisaulu village, where the headman, Mr Thsivuhulawi Norman Makumbane, was detained by security policy on July 23. He is also being held under Section 29.

The crackdown started in June and at least 20 people are known to be in detention. They are also being held in terms of Section 29. Sources in the area said the crackdown followed the arrest on June 21 of an alleged guerilla identified as Mr Mashudu Masindi.

Venda security police chief G.T. Ramabulana, confirmed Mr Masind's detention but declined to confirm or deny that he was a trained guerilla. "We are still investigating," he said.

Reports from the area yesterday indicated that a major security trial was expected to begin within the next three months as Mr Masindi had allegedly been taken to the homes of some of the 20 detainees where he was allegedly photographed by the security police.

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CSO: 3400/240

MINISTER URGES BUSINESSMEN TO CHALLENGE UNIONS

MB140449 Johannesburg SAPA in English 2350 GMT 14 Aug 87

[Text] Johannesburg, 13 Aug (SAPA)--Unions that make unreasonable demands on employers should be challenged in the industrial court, Mr Pietie du Plessis, minister of manpower and public works, said in Benoni this evening.

Mr du Plessis addressed Benoni businessmen after Benoni MP Mr Johan Lemmer related to him the problems experienced locally regarding strike action and labor relations.

"Some unions go beyond the limits of reasonability every day. They are getting away with murder, the time has come for employers to take them to court," Mr du Plessis said.

"Most employers problems arise from ignorance, they do not know what they may and may not do. There was to be a balance between employer and employee where negotiation is concerned.

"The envisaged labor court -- where appeal against decisions of the industrial court will be able to be made and employers will be able to claim damages and legal costs -- is a sword over the head of unions," he said.

Mr du Plessis described the labor court as "the biggest disciplinary action yet taken against unions" and said that the intimidation of workers was a serious problem which was being discussed at the highest level of government.

Unions' leaders were beginning to realize that strikes and stay-aways destroyed job opportunities by encouraging employers to increase mechanization. "This is resulting in a sobering effect on unions," said Mr du Plessis.

There was no mechanism that prevented money from abroad reaching unions but if it was discovered that the money was not being applied for bona fida operations the government would act, he said.

/12624
CSO: 3400/240

SOCIAL

SOUTH AFRICA

TBVC STATES MEET FOR LABOR, TRAINING DISCUSSIONS

MB111681 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1643 GMT 11 Aug 87

[Text] Johannesburg, 11 Aug (SAPA)--Senior South African and TBVC [Transkei, Bophuthatswana, Venda, Ciskei] government officials met in Pretoria today for discussions on manpower training and other labor-related matters, the Bureau for Information reports. It said the meeting was a forerunner to the annual meeting of SATBVC ministers of manpower scheduled for October, when views will be exchanged on labor matters and manpower development on the sub-continent.

The Bophuthatswana secretary for manpower, Mr H.P.G. Moloantoa, chaired today's meeting, which attended to the implementation of reciprocal bilateral agreements on the payment of contributions by the five states' unemployment insurance funds. Emphasis was placed on the close monitoring of the various funds to ensure that they remain strong to meet increased demands. Heavy demands are being made on the funds due to the present high unemployment rate, the bureau said. Various ways and means of facilitating manpower training were also discussed, and the meeting agreed that a modular approach to manpower development may hold the answer to many training needs in southern Africa.

The South African delegation was led by Advocate J.D. Fourie, the chief director of labor relations in the Department of Manpower, and the delegation from Transkei by Mr C.M. Mancotywa, secretary for manpower. Mr M.C. Kashe, director-general of the Ciskei Department of Manpower, headed his country's delegation.

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CSO: 3400/240

UNIVERSITY STUDENT ORGANIZATION GAINING STRENGTH

MB142112 Johannesburg SAPA in English 2002 GMT 14 Aug 87

[Text] Cape Town, 14 Aug (SAPA)--With the affiliation this week of two more English-speaking universities to the National Union of South African Students [NUSAS], the union was stronger than it had been for the past 18 years, the organization said today.

NUSAS now has five affiliated students representative councils [SRC] at the Universities of Cape Town [UCT], Witwatersrand, Rhodes, Durban and Pietermaritzburg; and unaffiliated groupings at the Universities of Stellenbosch, Pretoria and Port Elizabeth.

This must come as a slap in the face of those wishing to clamp down on the universities, a NUSAS spokesperson said.

NUSAS, the spokesperson said, was not stronger than it had been since black students left it in 1969 to form the South African Students Organizations.

NUSAS goes forward in unity and strength to challenge the attacks by the government on our organization and our universities and to build non-racialism on campuses, she said.

The organization was referring to leaks from a confidential document this week outlining the government plans to prevent NUSAS, an affected organization, from operating on campuses, as a condition for the allocation of subsidies to the University.

Meanwhile the president of the UCT SRC, Miss Carla Sutherland, has reacted strongly to confirmation by the minister of law and order, Mr Adriaan Vlok, that a student, Mr Danie Pretorius, was a policy spy. She said NUSAS and the South African National Students Congress were open, democratic organizations, motivated towards a non-racial South Africa. She strongly criticized the fact that a naive schoolboy was used as a police spy.

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CSO: 3400/240

SAIRR STUDY SHOWS MORE ATTENTION TO BLACK CONDITIONS

MB090812 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0806 GMT 9 Aug 87

[Embargoed Until 1800 GMT on 9 August]

[Text] Johannesburg, 9 Aug (SAPA)--The second quarter of this year saw a number of government moves to upgrade black socio-economic conditions, the South African Institute of Race Relations [SAIRR] said in its review of socio-economic developments this year. Its insistence on doing so through racially segregated systems, however, meant that apartheid continued to be firmly entrenched in the sphere of social services.

This is clear from the South African Institute of Race Relation's socio-economic update for the second quarter of 1987. It has just been published and is available from the institute at P.O. Box 31044, 2017 Braamfontein at a cost of R5.54 (R4.50 per copy plus 0.54 GST plus 0.50 postage, packing, and handling).

The publication notes the emphasis that government spokesmen have placed on the need to "uplift" black socio-economic conditions as a means of guaranteeing stability. It notes also that increased provision has been made for such upgrading by an increased allocation of resources. A definitive picture of government spending in this area is not available, however, as spending on black facilities and services is reflected in several budget votes, including the provincial budgets, and racial breakdowns are rarely provided.

Among the positive trends identified by socio-economic update are: "a 40 percent increase in African education spending on the 1987 budget against a rise of over 8 percent for whites," a 40 percent increase in the budget for social services [no figure as received] percent more than the increase in security spending," a 26 percent increase in the development aid budget which pumps funds into the homelands. [quotation marks as received]

On the other hand there have been negative developments in the fields of education, energy, health, and, to a lesser extent, housing. In the field of education the second quarter illustrated that the authorities were not contemplating opening the use of white facilities to blacks. Changes, such as limited use by African students of white teacher training facilities or the re-opening of unused white schools as private, non-racial institutions, have not materialized despite earlier suggestions by government spokesmen that this might take place, the publication notes.

/12624

CSO: 3400/240

SOCIAL

SOUTH AFRICA

BRIEFS

RISE IN PROPORTION OF BLACK STUDENTS---Cape Town, 5 Aug, (SAPA)--Black students now make up 20 percent of the University of Cape Town's [UCT] student body, the university announced today. This represented an increase of 3.6 percent over last year's black student proportion which was 16.4 percent. The sharp rise in the proportion of black students this year has as one of its components a marked increase in the number of African students, from 439 in 1986 to 703 in 1987. During the same period the number of colored students increased from 1295 to 1577, Indian from 299 to 344 and whites from 10,360 to 10,492. [Text] [Johannesburg SAPA in English 0948 GMT 5 Aug 87 MB] /12624

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CSO: 3400/240

PROPERTY OF 70,000 ASIANS REMAINS IN LIMBO

London AFRICA ANALYSIS in English 10 Jul 87 p 5

[Text]

KAMPALA. One legacy of Idi Amin that haunts Uganda is what to do with the property of the 70,000 Asians he expelled in 1972.

Up to now, the 6000 or so shops, houses, factories and farms left by Asians have decayed under the control of the immensely corrupt Departed Asians Custodian Board. Only 192 properties have been returned to Asians under the Expropriated Properties Act (1983), although about 1700 have been applied for. The Obote regime returned about 110, the Okello regime about 70 and the Museveni government 12.

Tension is always high in East Africa - and especially in Uganda - over Asian assets. With almost no new building in Kampala for the last fifteen years, people have been known to kill for an Asian shop or house. But last month it flared even higher when deputy minister of finance Abbey Kafumbe Mukasa cancelled all but 25 of the repossession certificates given out by the Obote and Okello regimes.

Uganda's uninhibited press promptly proclaimed that the government was nationalising Asians' property. This irked the government, busy at the time seeking debt relief and aid from Paris Club donors. Nationalisation is anathema to the main Western powers dominating the Paris Club.

Kafumbe Mukasa lashed back at the newspapers for running the story. After all, he said, some Asians had tried to bribe him not to revoke the certificates.

Gloom filled the Asian community, some of whom have waited five years for the return of their assets. Some thought that the Democratic Party (DP), which opposed the return of Asian property in their 1980 manifesto, and which has a dozen ministers in the coalition cabinet, was behind the cancellations. It happens that Kafumbe Mukasa and minister of justice Joseph Mulenga are the two ministers most involved with the issue, and are both in the DP.

Other Asians observed that most ministers and civil servants live in former Asian-owned houses - and some, like Mulenga, run businesses in Asian premises. So naturally they oppose their return.

Yet others said the Museveni regime was racist. Rumours spread fast. Kafumbe Mukasa finally stepped in to quell the dissent, explaining at a press conference why

the certificates of repossession had been revoked and listing the many illegal ways the 'returned Asians' had re-acquired holdings.

For example, under the Okello regime, Dr Benjamin Obonyo, holding the portfolio of minister of finance for just one week, gave back 70 properties. He side-stepped the correct procedure - the verification and negotiating committees - and was bribed, alleged Kafumbe Mukasa.

In another case, Himat Gandesha, a prominent Asian, acquired a building society, a large hotel, and 10 other businesses wholly for himself. Yet he had been only a part shareholder in them before the expulsions in 1972.

The Museveni government said Kafumbe Mukasa wanted to settle the issue of Asian property once and for all. The true former owners, who met the conditions of the 1983 law, would get their property back after the two committees were satisfied. The rest of the properties would be sold off.

Valuers are already assessing the properties, starting first with farms and factories. The Custodian Board will be dissolved. Instead of maintaining Asian buildings and generating government revenue, it has let buildings collapse and 'borrowed' the rents.

When Museveni's NRM took power, the board had only \$100 in its account. Last year Sh2m (\$1428 at the old official exchange rate) vanished daily from its coffers. Most of its top officials now face charges of fraud.

/13046

CSO: 3400/0276

WORLD BANK CUTS OFF FUNDS

Lusaka ZAMBIA DAILY MAIL in English 18 Jul 87 p 1

[Article by Ketson Kandafula]

[Text]

THE WORLD Bank has suspended disbursement of funds to all its on-going development projects and balance of payments support programmes to Zambia worth about 400 million United States dollars.

The bank has also pulled out of further discussions with Zambian authorities on new projects needing its financial backing because the government is in arrears settling its debt.

Finance Minister Gibson Chigaga confirmed yesterday that the Bank has withheld funds for projects and balance of payments support because the country has defaulted in meeting its debt repayment obligations.

But he said the Bank has indicated its willingness to resume project financing as well as discussions on new programmes once the government settles its arrears. He declined to disclose the amount involved.

"We are in arrears and as soon as we clear these arrears the Bank will continue to support us in terms of existing projects and they will be able to consider other requests."

The Minister said the

Bank has invited the government for talks in Washington, and a Zambian delegation left last week headed by Ministry of Finance Permanent Secretary Cde James Mtonga who also passed through Brussels for talks with the European Economic Commission.

The minister was commenting on a statement at an earlier press conference by World Bank resident representative Mr Uche Mbanefo who said:

"As long as Zambia wishes to continue implementing these projects, and continues to meet its obligations to the bank, it will be delighted to continue financing existing and mutually-agreed future projects."

"This is regardless of whether or not Zambia has a programme with the International Monetary Fund."

But Mr Mbanefo conceded that the Bank's balance of payments support programme to Zambia had been cut off due to the suspension of the auction system.

These funds have not been forthcoming because the legal agreements to pass the balance of payments support programme money had been terminated.

"The money is just sitting in Washington because we do not have a vehicle to disburse it and the government has not given us its programme of economic adjustment for

us to assess how effective it would be."

"The Bank was very pragmatic about project financing but was equally strict by looking at the economic environment which decides whether it was worth supporting."

Cde Chigaga concurred with the resident representative that the new readjustment programme has not yet been finalised, but added that foreign exchange was being utilised properly by going into productive sector unlike under the IMF when it was frittered away through importations of finished goods.

The Minister expressed optimism that the problem with the bank would be sorted out for the relations to continue as before.

/13046

CSO: 3400/155

WORLD BANK PROJECTS GO ON

Lusaka TIMES OF ZAMBIA in English 18 Jul 87 p 1

[Text]

WORLD Bank-funded projects in Zambia will not be affected by the break from the IMF-backed economic package as long as the Government "continues to meet its obligations to the bank".

The bank's resident representative Mr Uche Mbanefo told a Press conference in Lusaka yesterday that Zambia was currently implementing about 20 projects to which the World Bank had committed more than K 300 million.

Mr Mbanefo stressed that as long as the Government wished to continue implementing these projects, and met its obligations to the bank, "the World Bank will be delighted to continue financing existing and mutually-agreed future projects in Zambia."

That was regardless of whether or not Zambia had a programme with the IMF.

Asked to elaborate on the "obligations", Mr Mbanefo said every bank had rules governing its lending and once the lender and borrower signed an agreement under which money would be disbursed, such terms must be adhered to.

"We have a lending programme which has absolutely nothing to do with the IMF. The World Bank doesn't clear its loans

with the IMF and the IMF doesn't clear its loans with the World Bank.

"The World Bank and IMF are two entirely separate institutions, each with its own independent board and management, and each pursuing its own lending programme in its respective member countries."

The World Bank was presently financing projects in many countries which had no programmes with the IMF.

On the bank's aid channelled through the foreign exchange auction which Zambia abandoned on May 1, Mr Mbanefo said the outstanding amounts could not be disbursed now as the mechanism previously agreed upon was no longer in use.

The bank disbursed nearly \$100 million through the auction system from the time of its inception in October, 1985 up to the time it was scrapped.

Mr Mbanefo could not release the outstanding amounts now being withheld for lack of a mechanism through which the money could be released.

He cited only one project under the heading "recovery credit" involving

\$50 million which was to be disbursed through the auction system.

By the time the auction system was abandoned, the bank had released only half the amount. The remainder could not be released because it was tied to the auction.

Asked whether Government had requested the release of money previously tied to the auction, Mr Mbanefo said no such request had been made.

On the new economic recovery programme, he said the bank could not make a meaningful appraisal because it had no details as the Ministry of Finance and Planning was still working out these.

The bank would monitor Zambia's programme and was ready to help wherever possible. He was in touch with all the authorities from time to time.

Ongoing projects financed by the World Bank and its concessionary lending affiliate — the International Development Association (IDA) include the Tazama Pipelines rehabilitation, fertiliser industry restructuring project, rural water

supply, fisheries development, agricultural rehabilitation, petroleum exploration and some educational projects.

Others include Indeni Refinery engineering, industrial reorientation, smallholder dairy development, including help to the Development Bank of Zambia and numerous other sectors.

/13046

CSO: 3400/155

GOVERNMENT HELP NEEDED DURING COMMODITY SHORTAGE

Lusaka TIMES OF ZAMBIA in English 10 Jul 87 p 1

[Editorial]

[Text]

SHORTAGES of essential commodities (and indeed any other commodity) are not around the corner but they are already here. Customers are "zam-footing" or driving around shops and markets looking for bread, cooking oil and mealie meal without any success.

Even beer which should normally be available to the Zambian and his foreign guest or tourist is again a rare commodity in the bars and restaurants.

No Zambian should, however, be surprised about the looming shortages. The country has no foreign exchange to import raw materials like wheat to bake bread or even to import the finished products themselves.

Organisations which have foreign exchange to lend us had razor blades on our throats and if we were not careful to jilt them there would have been

no throats to drain the stuff from Zambia Breweries. This is the meaning of the decision by the Government to chart its own economic programme.

This will undoubtedly be the most difficult period for Zambia and people who do not take such warnings seriously are either in a fool's paradise or are about to enter it. They might not get out of such a dungeon because they have always been on the receiving end.

But the Party and its Government should learn from the past and tackle the problem of shortage with vigour and diligence. When the country experienced serious shortages just about two years ago, there were endless queues at shops and the number of black-marketeers had increased to the extent that even some members of the police force jumped on the band wagon.

Government officials should, therefore, be working on methods to distribute the few commodities available to the people. The rationing system might be an idea although it has its own faults. Countries like China which controlled the distribution of the little food and the few clothes available should be given a thorough study.

The answer to our economic problems in the end will be the effective use of locally produced raw materials. Sandals for example can be made from local hide skins. The town dwellers could just take a two-week trip to the villages to learn how the people there are surviving without depending on imported goods.

We are not advocating that Zambians should live in perpetual poverty. We must develop and catch up with the rest of the world. But that development should come with dignity and not through insults while we are holding a begging bowl in our hands with our caps off of course.

/13046
CSO: 3400/154

DETAILS ON FAMINE RELIEF

Relief Distribution Criticized

Lusaka TIMES OF ZAMBIA in English 10 Jul 87 p 5

[Text]

TRADITIONAL rulers in north of Gwembe have expressed disappointment at the manner in which the famine relief food is being distributed by the contingency planning committee at Cabinet Office.

Chiefs Simamba, Sindambwe, Sikoongo and Chipepo complained yesterday that their people had not received any food since the operation started about two months ago but villages along the Chirundu-Sia-

vonga road were receiving supplies every week.

They complained through the office of the district governor in Siavonga that the contingency planning team was given the responsibility of selling food by the Party and its Government but since the operation started villagers in their areas were only hearing stories that some Government officers were selling food along the tar-mac road only.

Government Projects

Lusaka TIMES OF ZAMBIA in English 10 Jul 87 p 5

[Excerpt]

GOVERNMENT has set up a valley development fund to promote projects in valley areas where people are exposed to a variety of problems, Prime Minister Comrade Kebby Musokotwane said in Mpika yesterday. In an interview with Zana after he toured a number of remote areas in the district, Cde Musokotwane said the Party and its Government was taking steps to end famine in all areas. He described the famine

situation in Chief Nabwalya's area in Mpika as "very" serious and said the Government's new drive would be based on making the people grow their own food instead of relying on relief supplies. The valley development fund committee included all permanent secretaries whose provinces had valleys and the committee would meet soon to map out a strategy for the implementation of the programme.

Some of the money would be spent on the improvement of the Nabwalya road which had made communication to the area difficult especially in the delivery of relief supplies. This year's Budget had allocated some funds towards the Nabwalya road project. Cabinet Office through the contingency planning committee had taken steps to reduce the suffering of the people of Nabwalya through relief supplies.

Mealie Meal Delivery

Lusaka TIMES OF ZAMBIA in English 22 Jul 87 p 7

[Text]

THE people of Western Province have been saved from starvation following an emergency delivery of mealie meal there.

Provincial political secretary Cde Shadreck Mwiimbwa yesterday commended Secretary of State for Defence and Security Cde Alex Shapi for acting promptly.

Cde Mwiimbwa said this when he addressed a provincial contingency planning committee meeting which he chaired in Mongu.

Cde Mwiimbwa said three trucks which had been hired from Contract Haulage in Lusaka arrived in Mongu on Monday to deliver 3,400 bags of roller meal to Niec Stores where people would buy the commodity.

He told his audience which included all the six district governors to take their jobs seriously.

He called on the Party leadership to emulate Cde Shapi's example of considering other people's plight before he could think of his own.

During his recent tour of Kalabo district Cde Shapi was informed that mealie meal had run out.

Sources said Cde Shapi summoned an urgent meeting and instructed officials to ensure that mealie meal was delivered to the province immediately.

At Niec Stores regional manager Cde John Lukonga confirmed that three trucks with 3,400 bags of mealie meal had arrived from National Milling Company. — Zana.

/13046

CSO: 3400/154

REACTION TO RURAL RESETTLEMENT PLAN

Forcible Resettlement May Be Necessary

Lusaka ZAMBIA DAILY MAIL in English 13 Jul 87 p 4

[Editorial]

[Text]

IT IS disheartening that a programme designed to assist the jobless in urban areas and those retiring from work to engage in gainful activities on the land has received little response from the public.

Judging by reports from various urban district councils very few people have taken advantage of the government offer to provide transport and basic inputs to people electing to return to the rural areas to farm.

President Kaunda said yesterday that response to the government programme in which it is sparing a lot of money had been poor. And if there is no improvement, warned the President, government may be tempted to consider legislation to forcibly repatriate the unemployed to the rural areas.

It would mark a departure from the Party and government policy of persuasion in implementing the back-to-the

land programme if government were to legislate for compulsory repatriation. For government is strongly opposed to bully tactics of helping people to help themselves.

But government has a duty to deal effectively with the problem of unemployment and crime that arises from this. It also has a duty to ensure that its people enjoy a decent quality of life.

Under the present state of affairs in which millions of people cram the urban cities living on crime and crumbs, there is no way the government can provide a decent quality of life to its people. And yet those unemployed in urban areas causing problems of providing services can live happily on the land.

Why then have these people living in squalid conditions in shanties refused to take up the government offer to be assisted to settle on the land?

This is a question that urban district councils, the Ministry of Labour and Social Services, the Ministry of Agriculture, the labour movement and those government or non-governmental institutions, with an interest in this must ask themselves.

It would appear, as we have stated before, that inadequate publicity has been given to the scheme. How many employers give advice to those they retire or fire to consider returning to their villages to farm?

Indeed how many labour organisations which are keen on demanding improved conditions of service for their members take a keen interest in what happens to them

when they leave employment and so advise them to head home instead of labour offices in search of work?

Government itself must consider a special task force to deal with the matter. District councils should only be agents of this government body.

If persuasion through a well-co-ordinated campaign fails then government should consider regimental implementation of the scheme. There is nothing unhumanistic in forcing people to feed themselves, especially if by doing so we could reduce crime and its resultant insecurity in urban areas.

The back-to-the land scheme is a noble idea. But it is not an easy task.

Policy Needs Thoughtful Planning

Lusaka ZAMBIA DAILY MAIL in English 18 Jul 87 p 4

[Article in "Viewpoint" column by a political analyst]

[Text]

THE RECENT displeasure expressed by Comrade President Kaunda about the people's attitude towards resettlement in rural areas is a clear indication that a land reform of some sort is not only one of the policies among many, but that, agriculture holds the key to the future of Zambia.

It can even be argued that the effect of auctioning was not going to be so severe if peasant agriculture was sufficiently developed to not only meet internal demand for food but to export as well. This is because peasant agriculture is normally labour intensive. As a result, it is not as adversely affected by a rise in import cost of agricultural inputs as would

be for commercial farming. The effects of devaluation would be that, while the price of import dependent essential manufactures would go up, that of food would remain stable and the possibilities of urban revolt would thereby be averted.

But we need to be very specific of what we are talking about. Asking the people to go to the land stated as it is, without a

clearly marked out policy is certainly a wasteful effort. The call, moreover, is being made with a background in which desirable programmes such as village regrouping and self-reliance have faded with time. There were times when villagers, operating with a minimum of resources, built schools or teachers' houses. But the roofing and other materials promised from

the government were not forthcoming and the villagers, watched with disbelief, their efforts go to ruin.

The point being made, is that people have developed scepticism about the serious intentions of the government. This scepticism, is enhanced by pronouncements in which policy statements are enunciated in rather general terms lacking the rigour of data and specification.

The beginning point should be to dispense with assumptions. The views expressed by the Minister of Agriculture and Water Development, in an interview, that rural life was better than the life being led by the majority of urban dwellers is one of such assumptions. The minister is talking about people who probably have never seen a village.

The other one is the assumption that price incentives can lead to increased production in agriculture. But whatever the merits of this theory, in economic terms, there is a confusion here resulting from mistaking a pricing policy with an economic policy. To be sure, a pricing policy can facilitate the fruition of an economic policy, but these are not one and the same thing though they can be complementary.

The third assumption that must be dispensed with, is that Zambia has unlimited spaces of land people can settle. Statistics do not testify to this. Arable land in Zambia is less than a third of the total land mass and only a small portion of this is supplied with an infrastructure.

Having dispensed with myth, we can go on to deal with the specifics. The cardinal point to

remember is that, a land reform programme as an economic policy must be political or else it will be nothing.

In other words, a land reform package that is initiated and implemented as an isolated measure will be unlikely to achieve any result. Instead such a programme must influence in a dramatic way, the manner of government expenditure and the method of school instruction in order to implant the right attitudes in the population.

Of course, political will must not lack here. The government must be able to have designated areas where these people must go and settle. It is meaningless to tell people that they should go back to their villages when a large majority of them have only a casual acquaintance with village life or none at all. But even if people had a profound knowledge of rural life, the question of why they migrated to urban areas must be addressed.

In designating areas of settlement, the government must decide on whether they will settle people on lands that are presently idle because the owners do not utilize them or they will colonize new land and where. Logically, colonization of new land must be related to the existence of an infrastructure such as the land along the Zam-Tan rail which is potential agricultural land.

If a policy of land colonization has to succeed, the present system of land allocation in rural areas must be changed since it is antiquated. The process by which the local chief must issue authority for people to have land deeds has to be dispensed with and a more rational one, based on national needs be developed.

The identification of and investment in new land must be complemented with a clear policy as to who will be resettled. The identification of who will be settled has to pay attention to the problem of skills, tendencies in the economy in terms of declining economic activity and unemployment.

We may identify several target groups in terms of the present situation in Zambia. The first is the declining performance of the mining industry, closure of some pits and what can be done with the demobilized labour force.

The immediate problem that can be encountered in resettling this kind of labour is the problem of skills. One of the most distinguishing factors between the labour force in industrialized countries and those that are yet to industrialize is the fact that industrialized economies, can shift their labour force swiftly and costlessly. The reason being that, their workers normally have multiple skills so that it is possible to shift workers from a declining sector to emergent ones.

But in underdeveloped countries this does not seem to be the case. A study done on labour migrants in Lesotho revealed that migrant workers who retire from the South African mines showed no initiative, skill or innovation in agriculture when they returned home. The reason given was that there was a vast difference in the type of technology they were exposed to in the mines and that which they found in the rural areas of their own country.

As such, a project of resettlement must be supported by an assistance programme in learning new agricultural

skills and in infrastructural development such as simple dam, bridge

and road construction. This effort must be applied to all declining sectors such as construction and probably very soon manufacturing.

Already some facilities do exist to make the mounting of such a programme possible. Organizations such as the British Volunteer Service Overseas and others from Denmark, Holland etc can channel their assistance in meeting such demands on a limited scale. The setting up of trade schools and propping up the national service rural reconstruction programme are additional avenues for achieving the aim.

The need for such structures is enhanced if the target group is the unemployed youth. This is a more desirable group since, it has more energy which is presently being wasted in idle pursuits. It is not difficult to set up a tracer project in which all Grade Seven drop-outs are monitored

and those without employment identified and persuaded to join the resettlement programme so long the government demonstrates its serious intentions.

Another group that can be targeted for resettlement is the urban very poor comprising presently of about 25 per cent of the total urban population. This category of people live below the poverty datum line and would benefit from a resettlement programme. They have an average monthly wage of only K46 but would make more than this from an hectare of land.

It is always important to deal with a matter before it worsens. Now is the time for the government to show they are serious and demonstrate this by making elaborate plans for resettlement. Other countries such as China have carried out similar programmes quite successfully and one does not see how Zambia can fail even if it involved a certain measure of population control.

Response Unenthusiastic

Lusaka ZAMBIA DAILY MAIL In English 21 Jul 87 p 1

[Text] GOVERNMENT has earmarked 308 farms for the resettlement of some of the country's 1,316,673 unemployed and over 1,000 civil servants and politicians to be retired this year.

This is contained in the "Land Settlement Scheme Information Booklet" obtained by the Mail yesterday.

The booklet which is a guide to the jobless and those wishing to settle on the land says as a result of the Party and its government's decision to reduce

the size of the civil service, 1,151 officers will be retired this year.

The booklet which has been distributed to Party leaders at all levels points out that the farms identified are small holdings of about 45 hectares scattered throughout the country.

The publication of the booklet follows President Kaunda's concern over the continuing decline in the country's economic activity which has resulted in mass unemployment.

Areas earmarked for resettling people include rural reconstruction centres where out of 49,170 hectares of land, only 8,208 has been cleared.

Some farms in Southern Province covering 29,642 hectares once repossessed will be sub-divided and allocated for settlement too.

Those wishing to settle on these small holdings can approach the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources.

Out of the 18 State farms, 15 will be subdivided and allocated to those wishing to engage in agriculture.

The 1.5 million hectares of land along the Tazara Railway line from Kapiri Mposhi to Nakonde is also being converted into State land which will be demarcated into units for settlement.

There are also 14 farms for the handicapped throughout the country.

Commenting on the scheme, Copperbelt Member of the Central Committee Cde Rankin Sikasula said "there should be no excuses from the jobless. It is very clear. Once they register, they will be given the warrants to go home.

He reiterated President Kaunda's warning that if unemployed people did not return voluntarily, government would forcibly repatriate them.

He advised the jobless wishing to engage in agriculture to read the booklet to understand the resettlement programme.

"Anyone interested in this programme can go to the district governor to get correct details."

he said, noting that some unemployed people have misconstrued the rural plan thinking it was aimed at granting them State jobs.

Meanwhile, only 86 people in Kitwe have so far registered to go back to the land, reports Zana.

Fifteen are youths while the rest are mostly retired workers.

Governor Peter Lishika expressed disappointment at the poor response because Kitwe being a large city had thousands of unemployed people.

Although the 86 volunteers had not yet been allocated land within the district, other jobless residents should not be discouraged from registering.

In Kalulushi, 13 families have registered.

Governor Webster Lamba said although the initial response was not encouraging, he expected more to register.

Letters had been sent to the various districts where those who registered originate seeking verification and he was now awaiting confirmation before they could be repatriated.

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PROBLEMS IN POLICE FORCE

Corruption Condemned

Lusaka TIMES OF ZAMBIA in English 16 Jul 87 p 1

[Editorial]

[Text]

IF policemen and women are not as sober as judges are reputed to be you can be sure that shebeens and illicit drinks like kachasu, mbamba and solopi will never be wiped out in Zambia, the thirsty policemen will forget their duties and protect the illegal trade instead.

The same would apply to the serious crimes of corruption and bribery. A country with a corrupt police force is a haven for corrupt people. And when the corrupt police officers are senior ones, then Satan is firmly in charge of that unfortunate country.

Although corruption has not gripped Zambia as firmly as it has engulfed some Asian and some West African countries, there are grave signs that the cancer might spread like a prairie fire within the next decade.

The main reason is that some policemen and women — of all ranks — have joined the dirty game of getting rich quickly. And this is an open secret.

Some constables who do not hesitate to publicly complain about their low salaries are today living like police commissioners and their deputies. It is not unusual to find bottles of champagne and whisky and crates of beer stockpiled in their houses.

The expensive furniture in their houses could even be the envy of State House. Where do they get the money to live in such luxury and comfort? A few could have been given the property or money by some dead relatives in their wills. But the majority are swimming in riches through corruption.

Luckily for Zambia, we have some leaders

who do not believe in sweeping the nation's dirt under the carpet. One of such leaders is Home Affairs Minister Comrade Paul Malukutula.

The minister condemned corruption and indiscipline among senior police officers and he did so at an appropriate venue. He was addressing commanding officers at the police headquarters in Lusaka yesterday.

He pointed out a fact which is well known to the public that some police officers associate themselves with criminals

and other dubious characters. "If you associate with criminals then you have some criminal interests," he observed.

Successive inspector-generals of police have issued similar warnings and advice but the situation is getting from bad to worse almost every day.

It is perhaps time that the police should carry out some "clean-up operation" campaigns in their own camps. Foreigners might find themselves with strange companions in Kamfinsa prison.

Numerous Retirements a Problem

Lusaka ZAMBIA DAILY MAIL in English 17 Jul 87 p 4

[Editorial]

[Text]

THAT the public service is overstaffed and there is need to prune it to reduce the high wage bill has been recognised for a long time. And when government announced it had started a cost-saving exercise by retiring early some of the officers, this was hailed as a commendable move.

But little did we know that this scheme, which must have had the approval of the International Monetary Fund was to be executed so indiscriminately as to rob government of officers it could not replace.

Home Affairs Minister, Comrade Paul Malukutula has had to suspend the scheme to save the Zambia Police

from collapse as many officers, probably unhappy with the working conditions, were applying for early retirement to take advantage of full terminal benefits that were being offered.

Now, said the Minister, officers may only retire on reaching the retirement age of 55 years for men and 50 years for women. He is trying to correct an anomaly which was created at the time the scheme was introduced by leaving the initiative to the officers.

Whereas the initiative to retire an officer early should have been at the discretion of the employer, it appears officers were allowed to

apply to be retired early. The result was that in the Police Force many officers elected to retire and usually these were officers that could not be easily replaced.

On the other hand there is evidence that in other wings of government many officers who had been retired on account of age were opposed to the move and even sought to change their dates of birth.

Indeed some civil servants are known to have sworn affidavits of birth to alter dates of birth on their national registration cards. But that the Police Force has suffered an exodus of qualified staff through early retirements also indicates that something is wrong with the force.

Cde Malukutilla should therefore address himself to the conditions of service which could be the main reason why officers wanted to retire. Otherwise suspension of the scheme can only help him retain figures

and not the spirit to work efficiently.

We support the decision to suspend the scheme because it certainly would have led to the collapse of the force. But as a pruning mechanism early retirement at the discretion of the employer can be useful.

But even with the limited resources the Ministry of Home Affairs should take steps to improve not just the conditions of service to attract officers to stay, but it should invest in the necessary tools to enable those it wishes to retain to work effectively.

In this way the ministry will also effectively fight corruption which Cde Malukutilla said was on the increase among officers, including senior ones.

For officers who are accepting bribes at roadblocks or who offer to destroy evidence against people they are investigating do so partly because of the poor conditions they work in.

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